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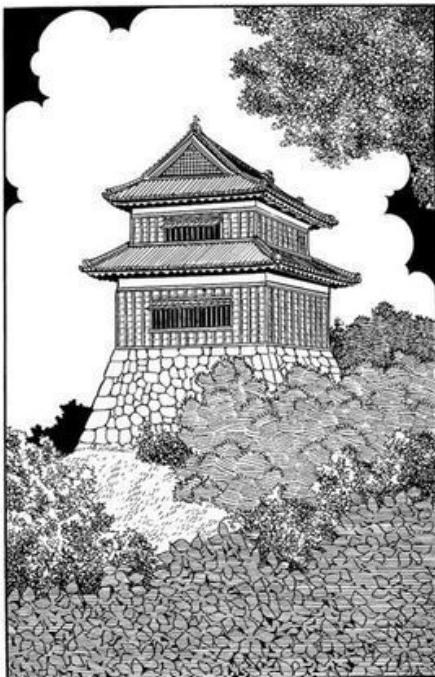
STRANGE BEAUTY
LIFE

OSAMU TEIKA

phoenix

TM

STRANGE BEINGS/LIFE



BY OSAMU TEZUKA

Phoenix: Strange Beings/Life
Vol. 9
VIZ Signature Edition

STORY AND ART BY
OSAMU TEZUKA

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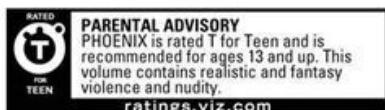
A message to our readership:

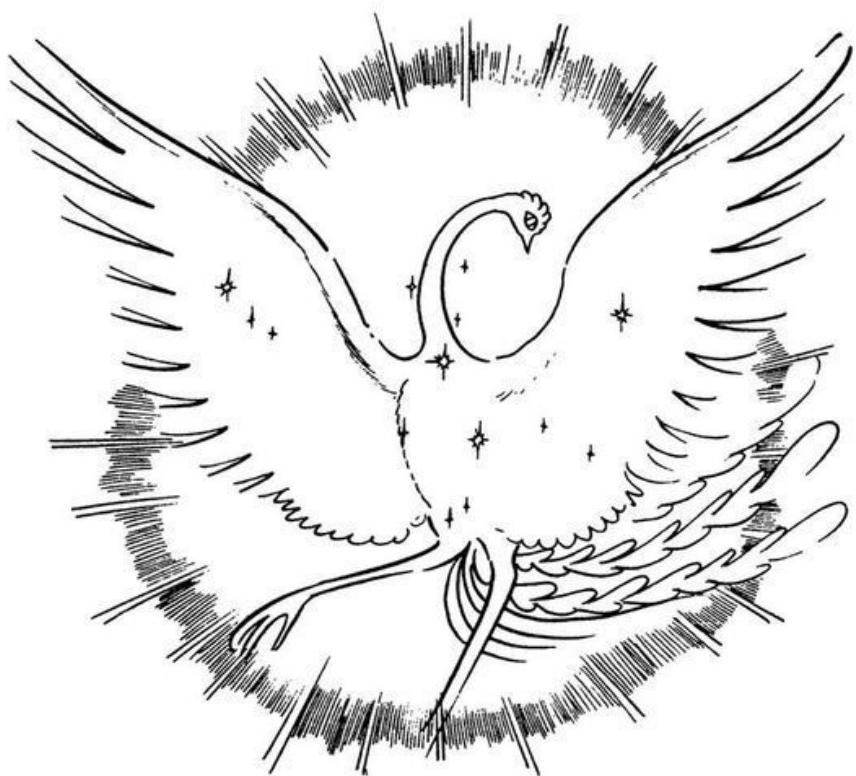
Some of the phrasing and expressions in the work you are about to read reflect the time and context in which it was originally created and thus might not be in accordance with present standards. The author had an unflinching dedication to conveying several themes through the art of manga, such as the importance of nature, love and peace; a warning against the idolization of science, and the preciousness of life. It is clear that at the root of his work there is a strong belief in the power of human love overall.

We believe that publishing a faithful translation is essential to accurately conveying the message within the work itself as intended by the author, as well as protecting its integrity as a part of Japan's cultural heritage and preserving it for future generations. We therefore appreciate your understanding as you enjoy this work of art.

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AH, THE
VENERABLE
NUN...
THE NUN OF
OURAIJI...
INTONDO
MISAKI...



SHE LIVES FOR EIGHT
HUNDRED YEARS...
HER GOOD DEEDS
LAST FOR
THOUSANDS...

IF IT'S PROOF YOU
WANT...
ASK ANY MAN...
ASK ANY WOMAN...

Z
A
A

Z
A
A

CRASH

BOOM



FLASH

BAM

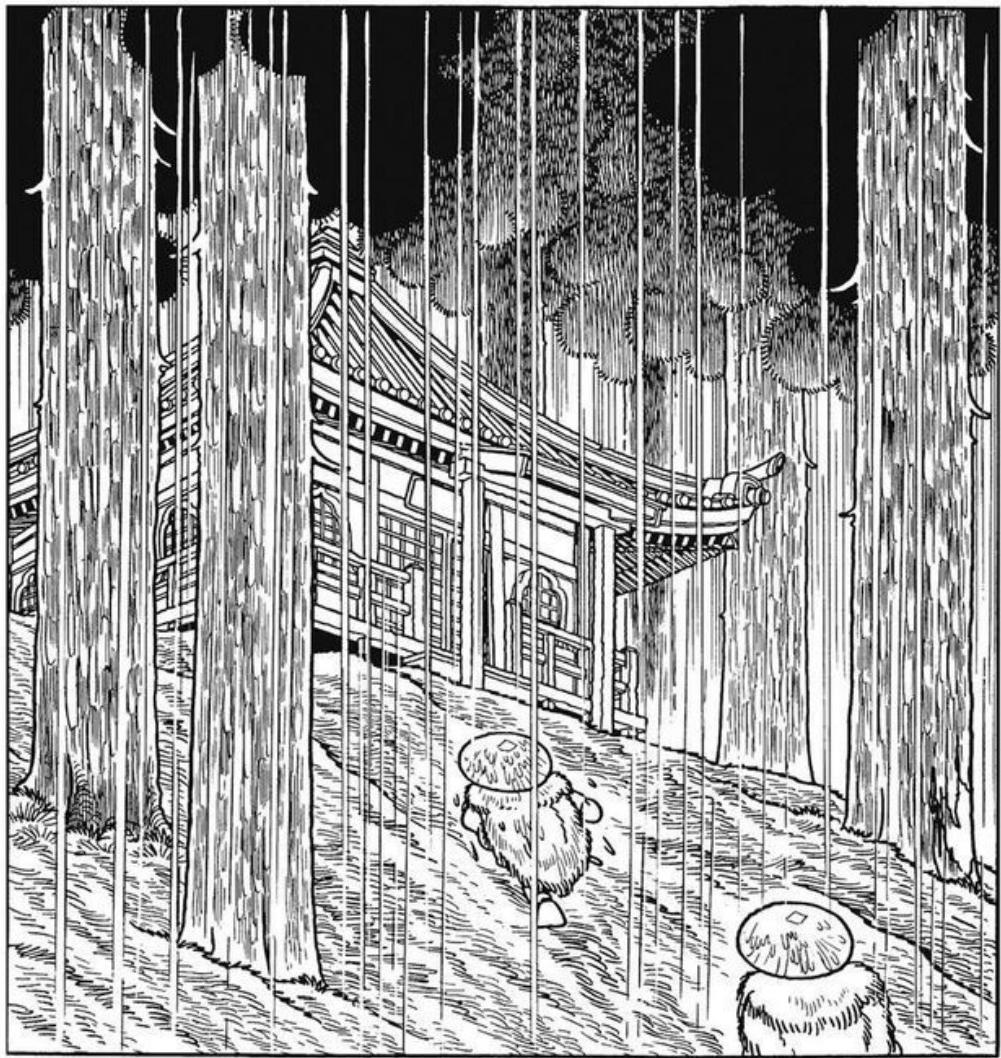
COME ON,
KAHEI! KEEP
MOVING!

MASTER... I CAN'T
KEEP UP... I'M
EXHAUSTED...

CRAACCKK SNA

HERBOOM!

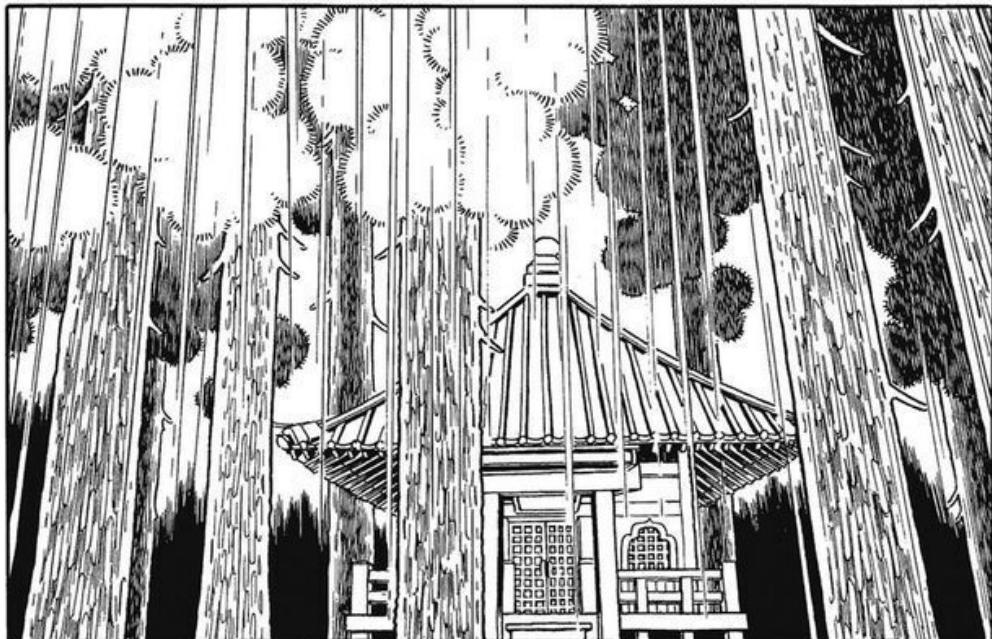


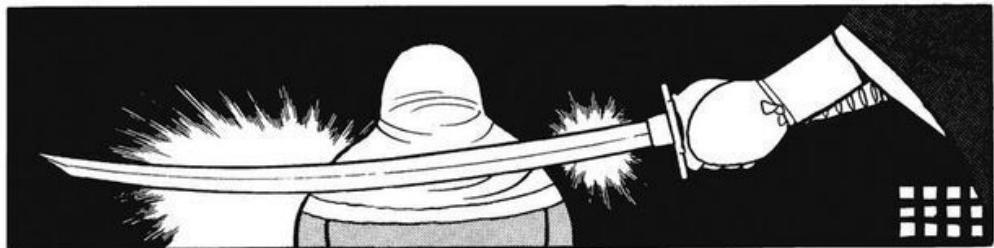


*HOURAIJI TEMPLE ("TEMPLE OF THE IMMORTALS")











WELL, YOU WERE ABLE TO ENTER THIS PLACE, BUT YOU'LL NEVER BE ABLE TO LEAVE...





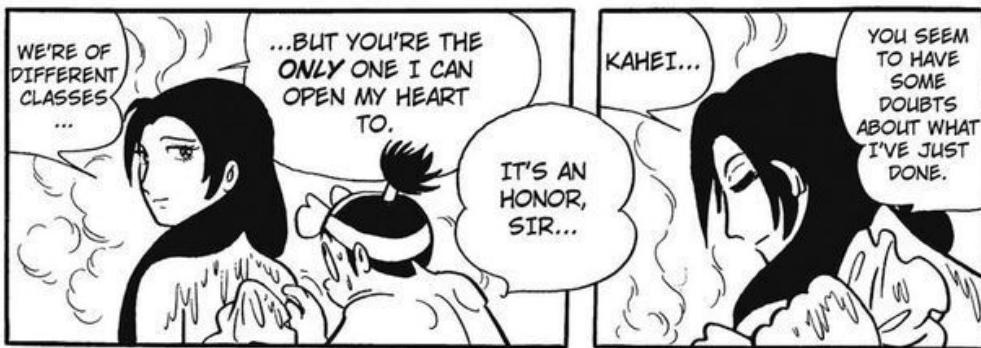




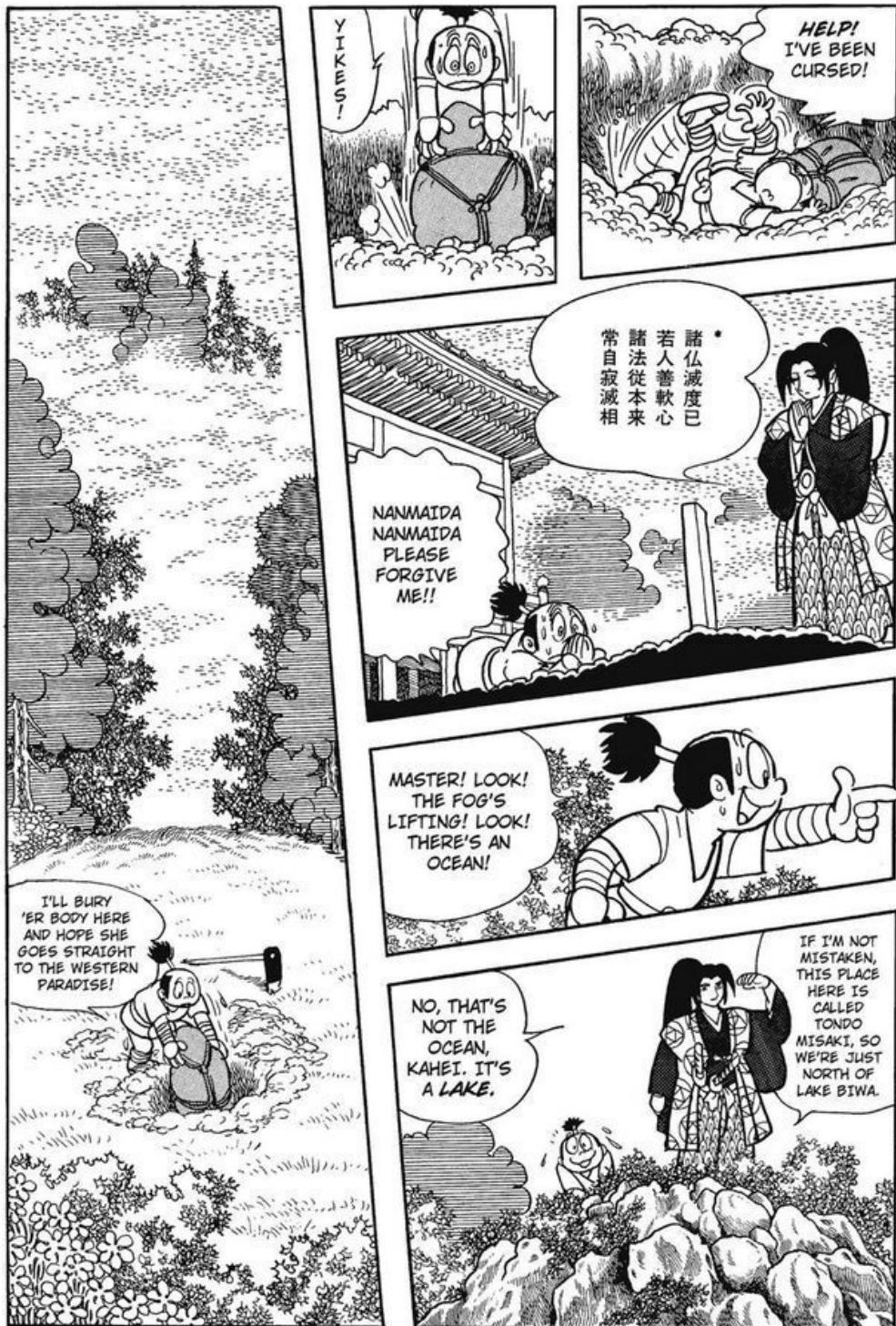
TRUNCATED FORM OF "NAMU AMIDA BUTSU," INVOKING THE BUDDHA'S NAME



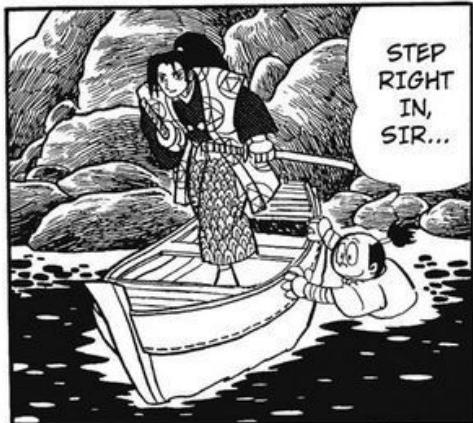
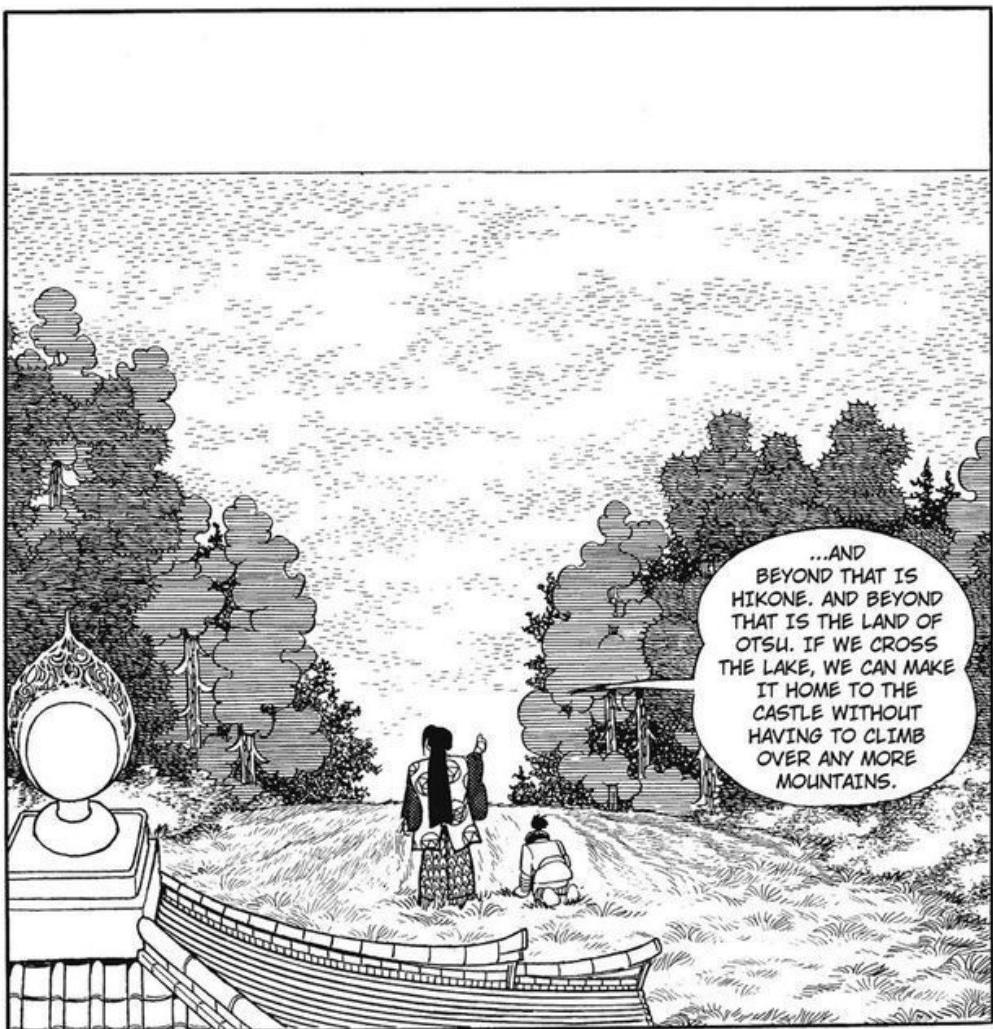
SOMETHING LIKE THAT, SIR... EVER SINCE YOU WERE A LITTLE KID...

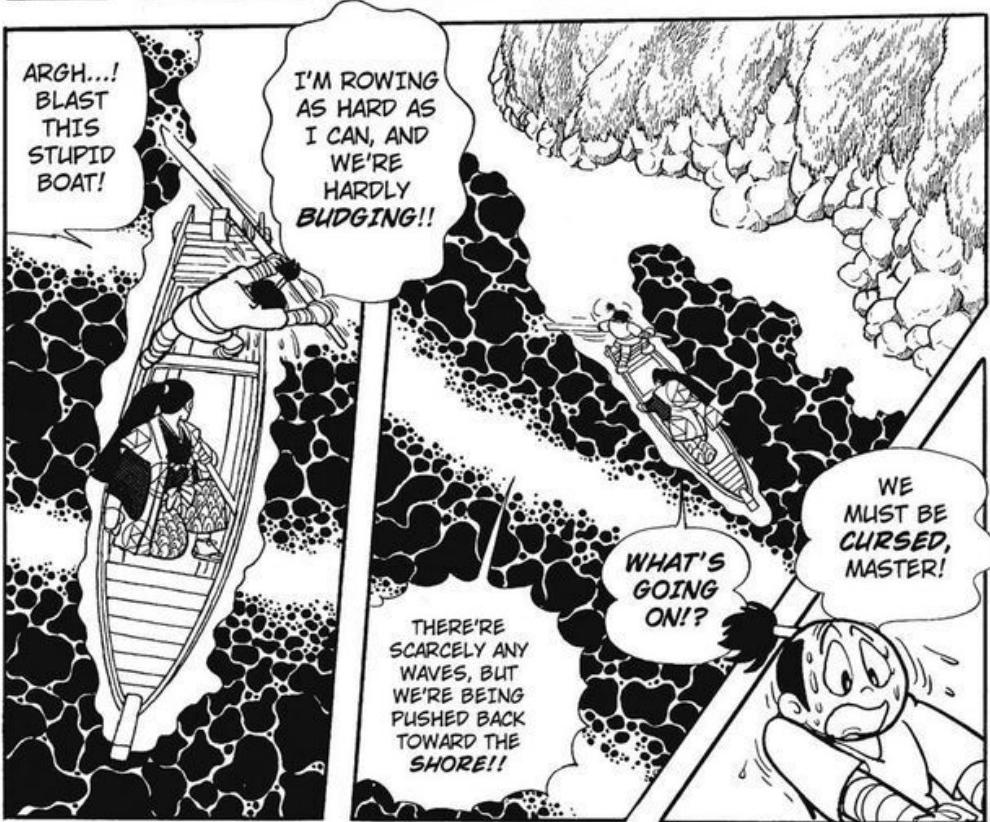
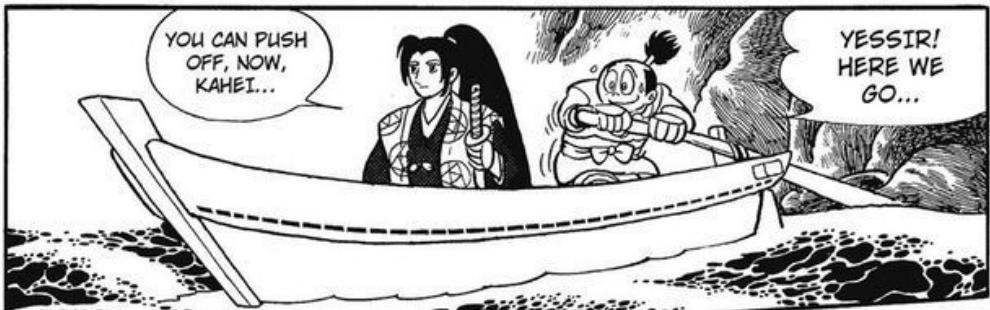


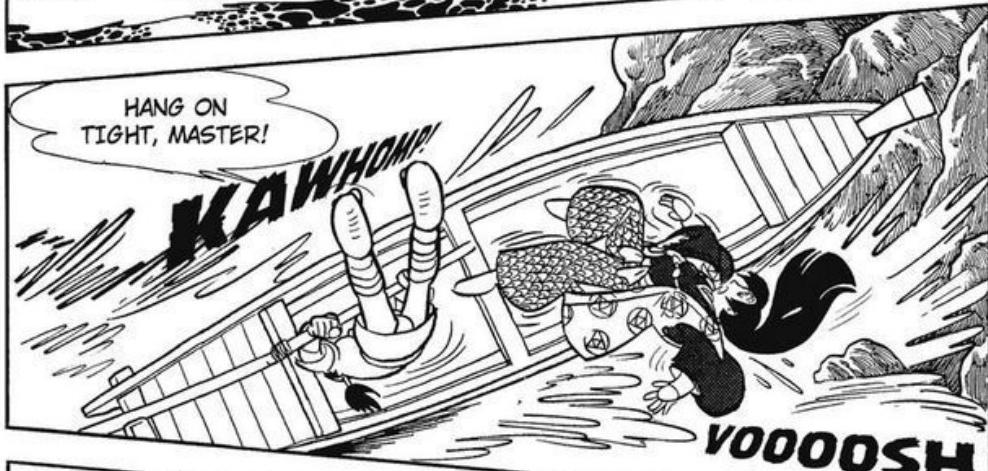
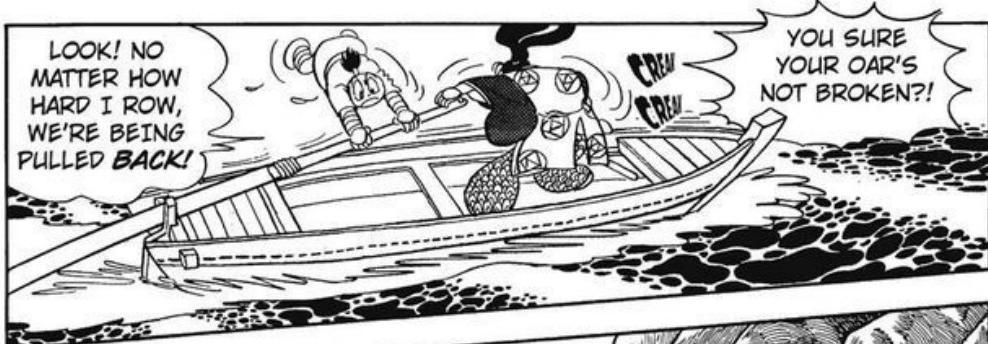


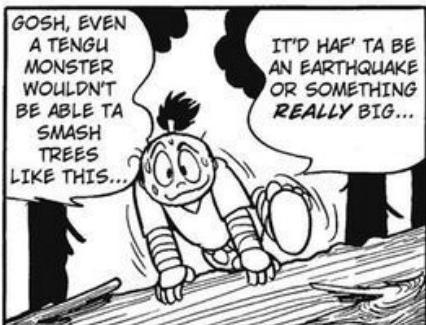


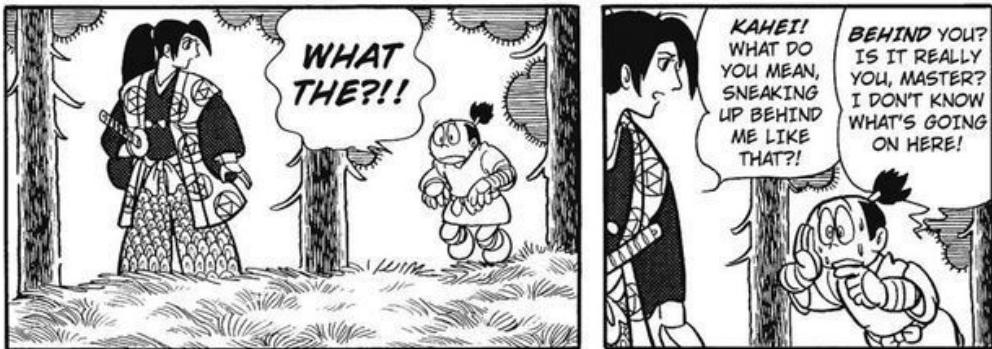
*BUDDHIST CHANT ABOUT THE EPHEMERAL NATURE OF ALL EXISTENCE.

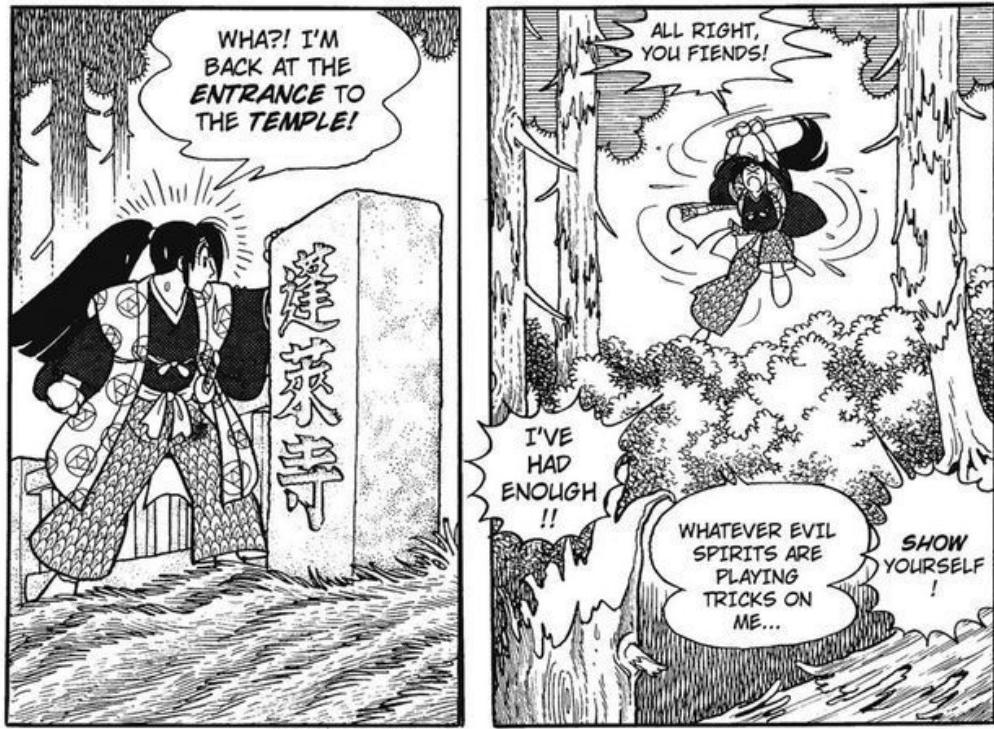






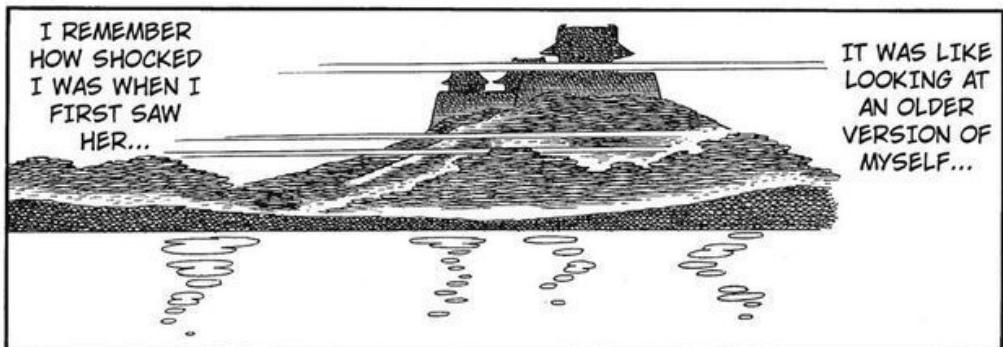


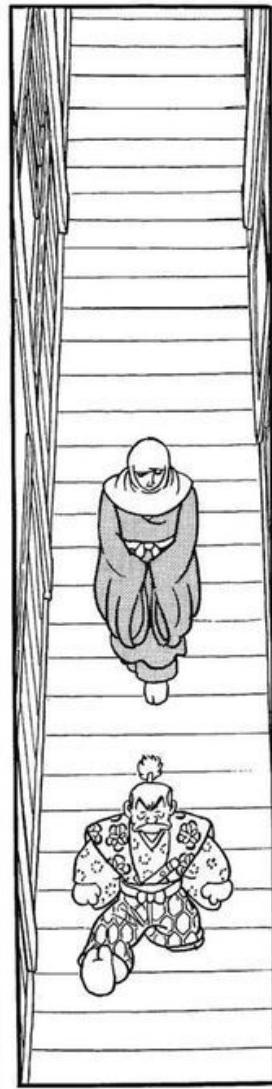
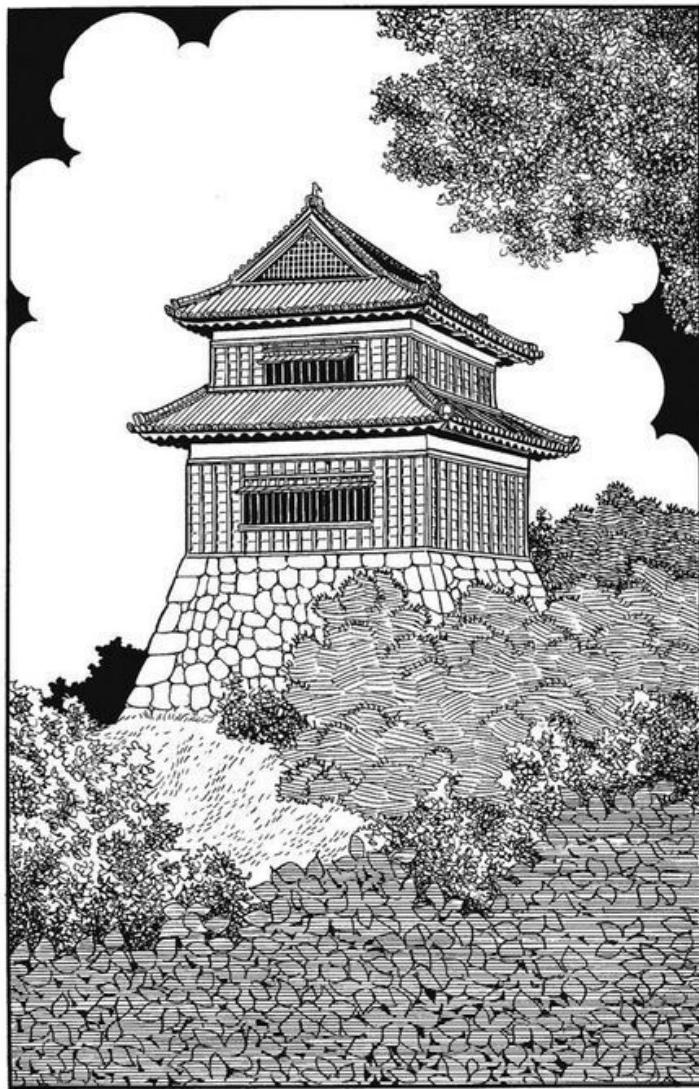




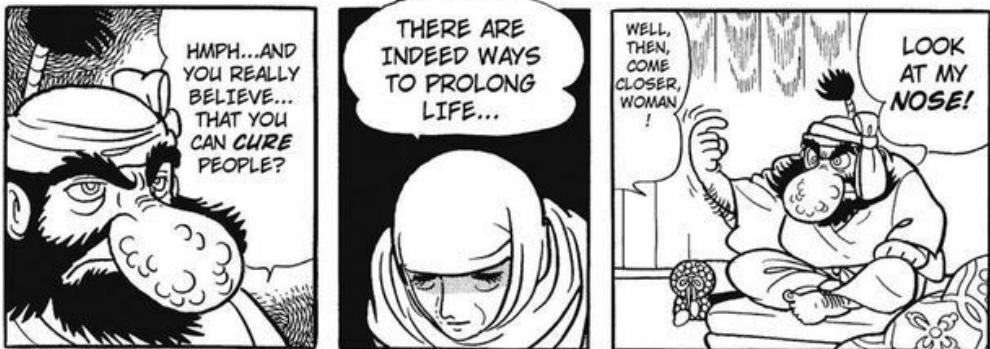
*HOURAIJI TEMPLE

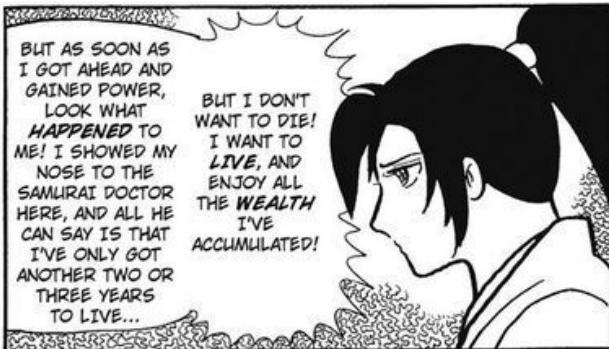
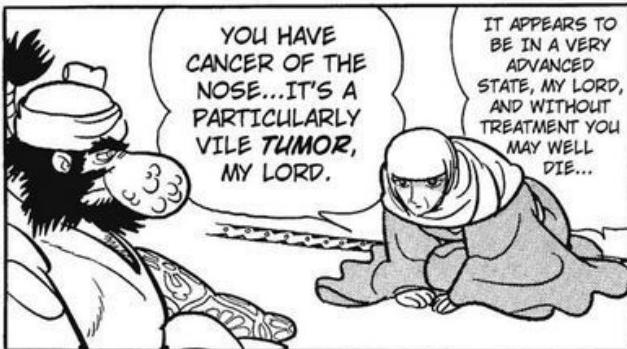


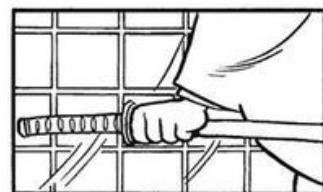
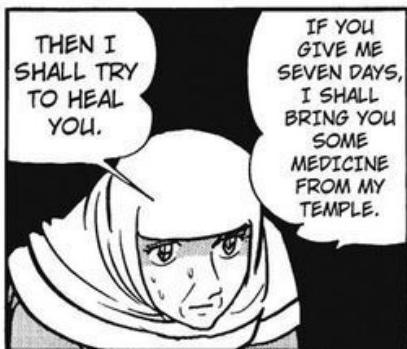


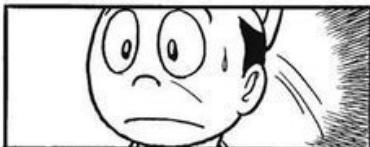
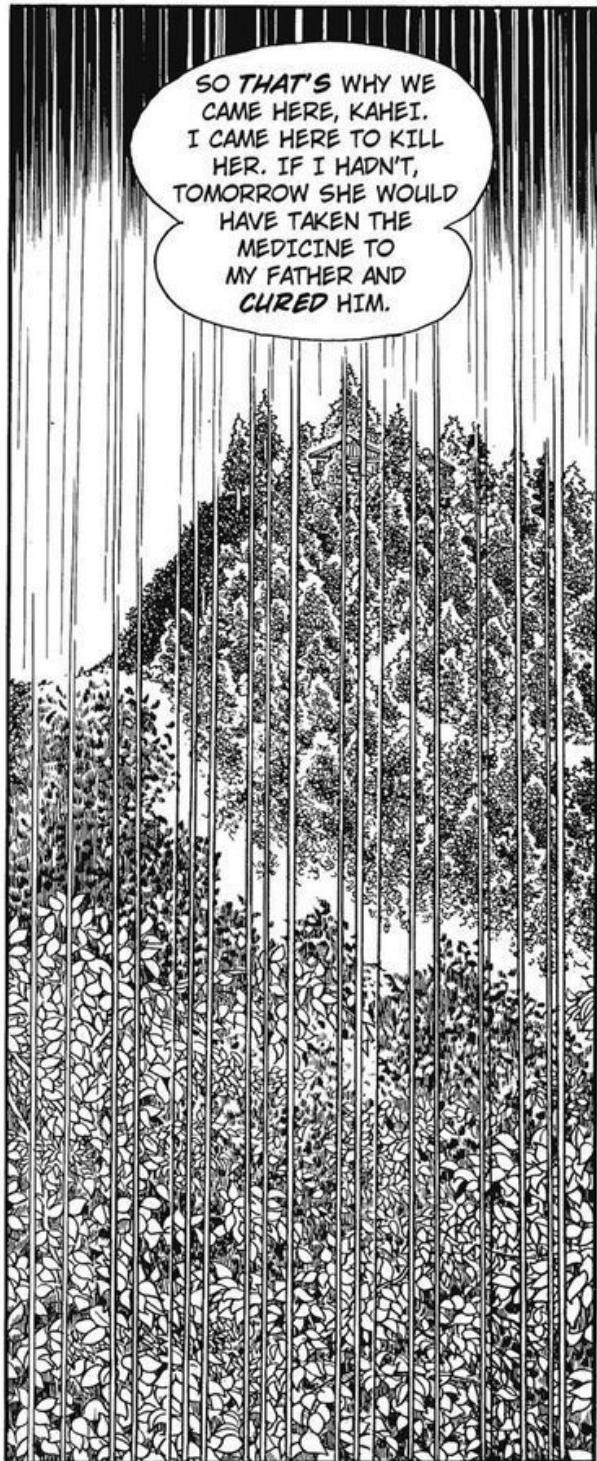


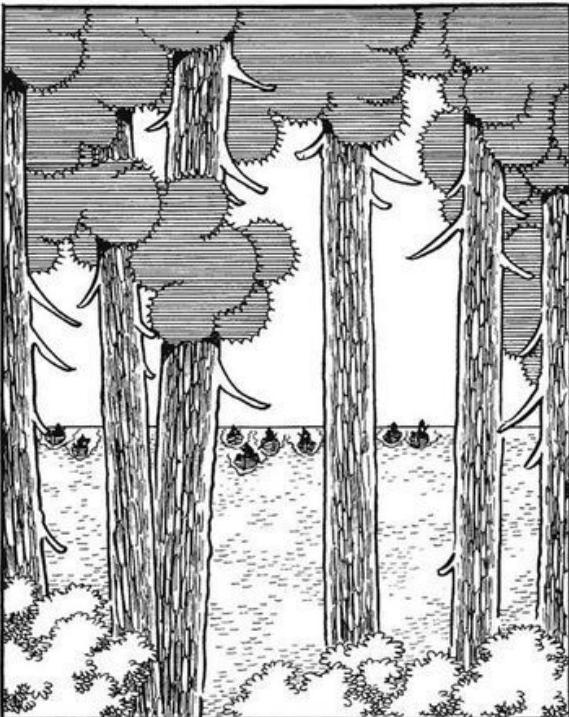


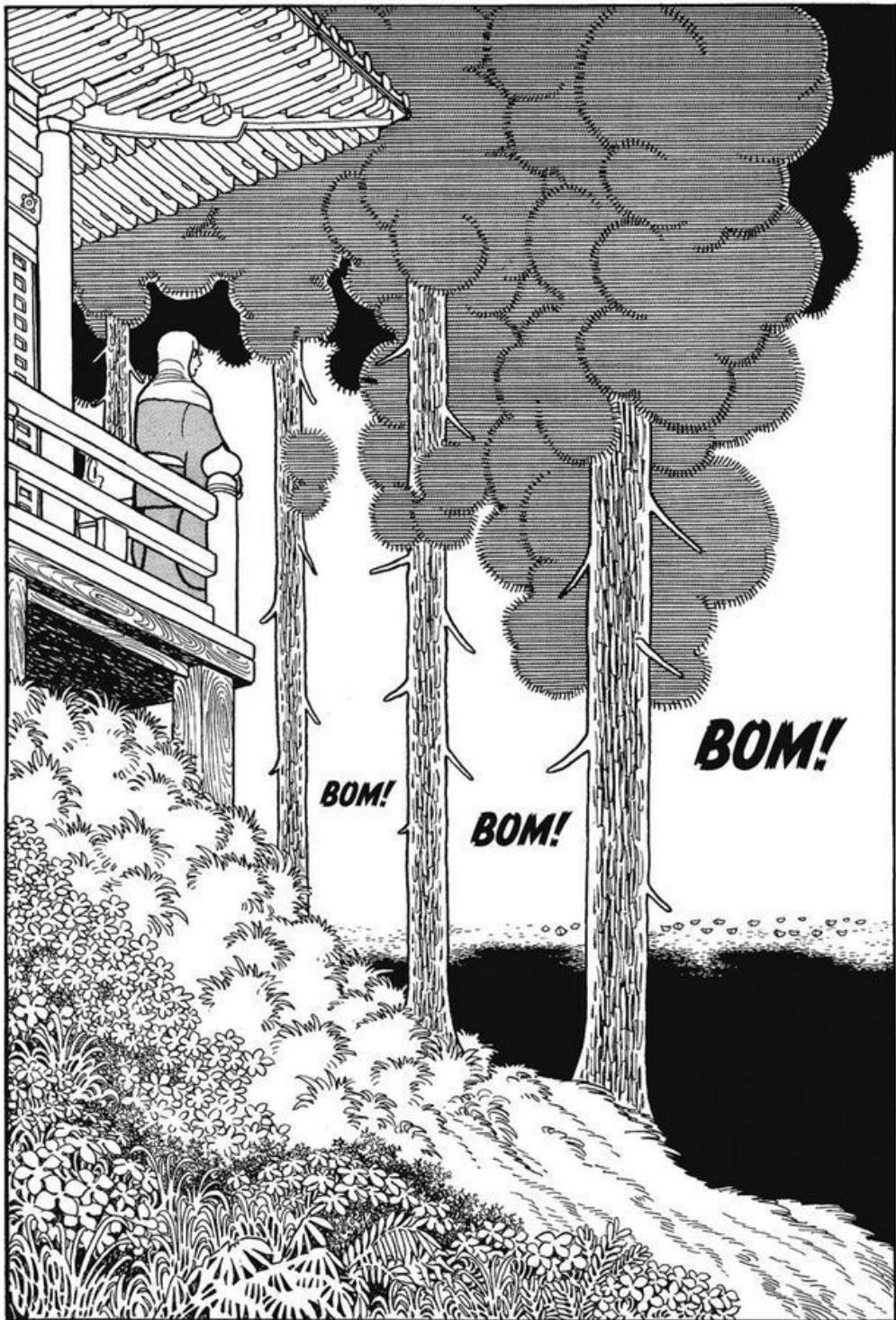


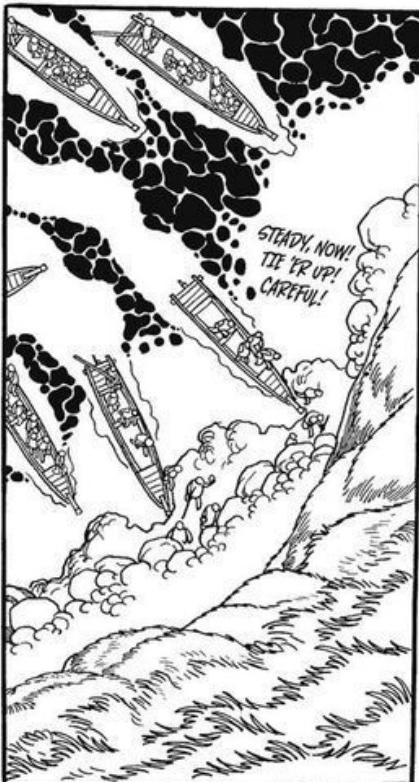
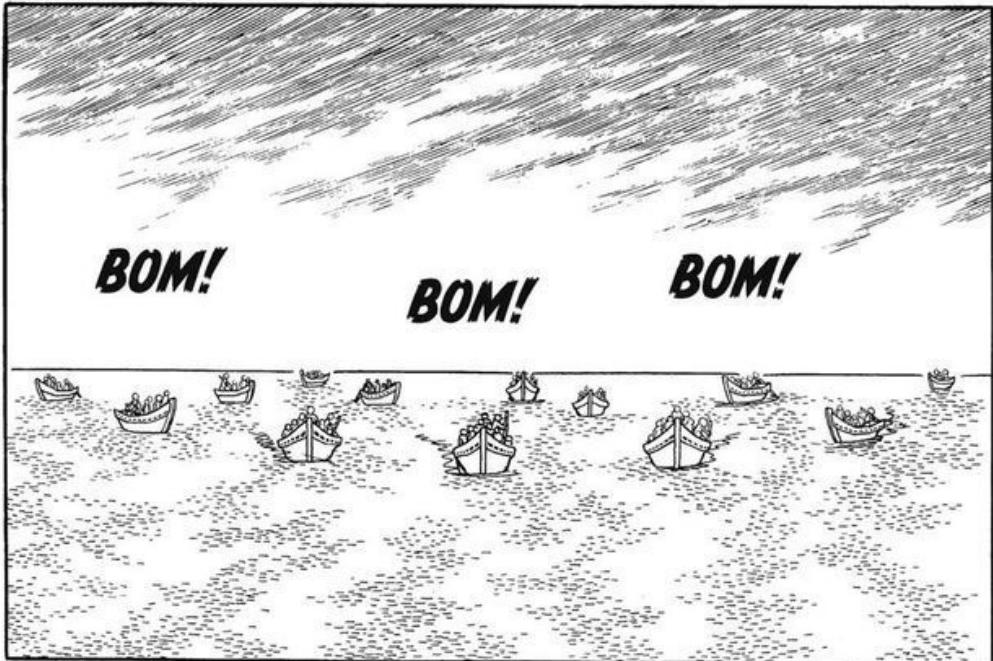


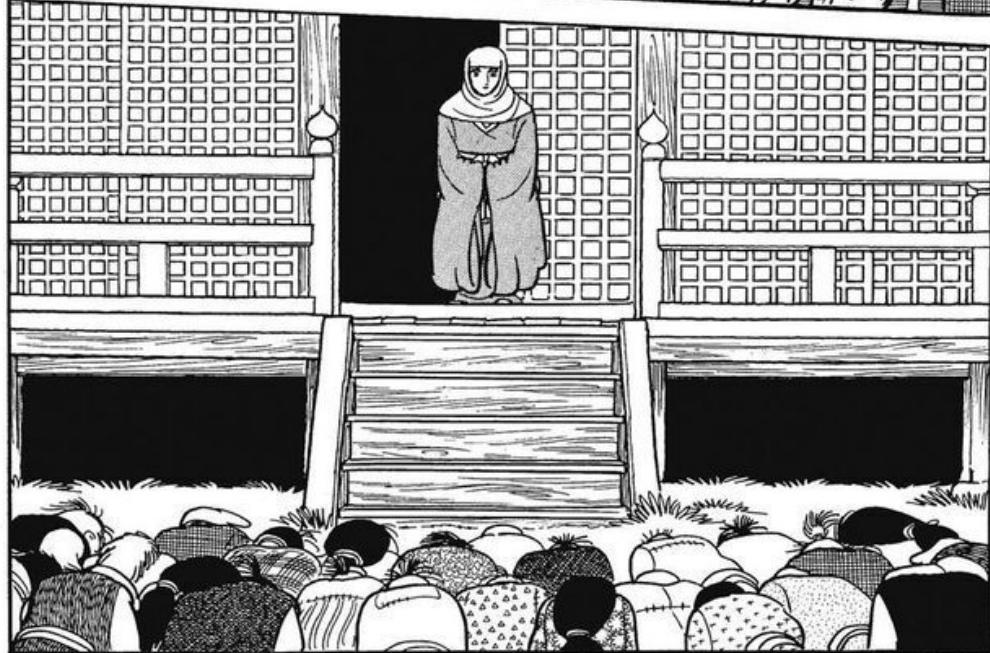










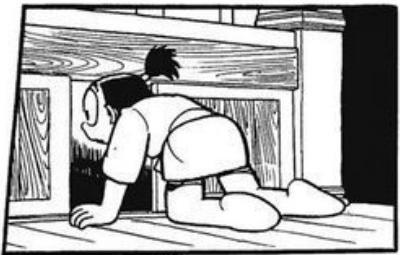


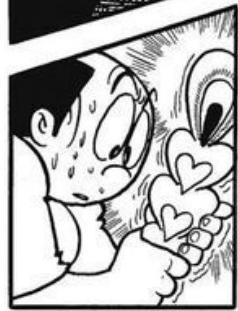


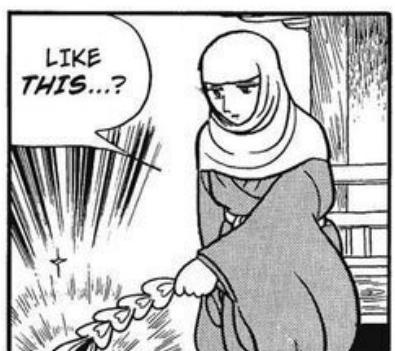


*MOXIBUSTION: A KIND OF THERAPY, POPULAR IN ASIA, INVOLVING THE BURNING OF POWDERED MUGWORT.

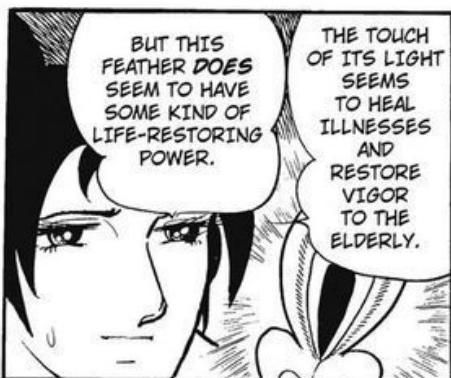
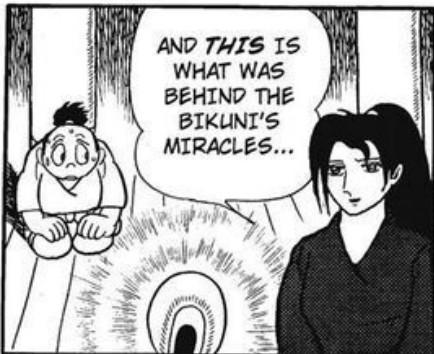
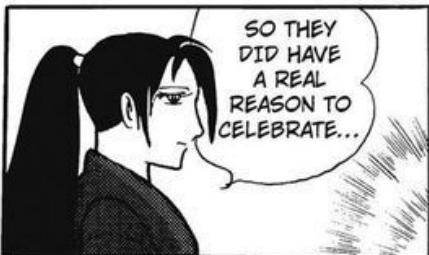














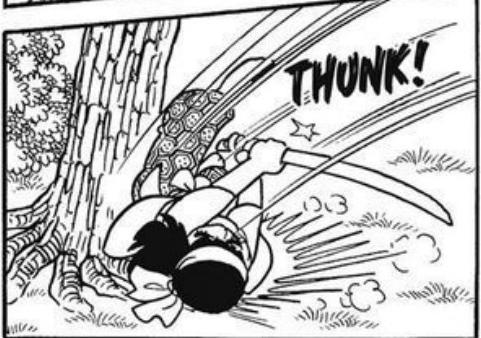
ONCE, I EVEN
SAW MY
FATHER CUT
DOWN ONE OF
HIS OWN
RETAINERS,
RIGHT BEFORE
MY EYES!

ANOTHER TIME, I
SAW MY FATHER,
ALL ALONE IN THE
MAIN HALL...

HE WAS SITTING IN
FRONT OF SOMEONE'S
SEVERED HEAD,
LAUGHING AND
DRINKING SAKE...

AND WHEN MY
FATHER TAUGHT
ME FENCING, I WAS
AFRAID HE WANTED
TO MURDER ME...

HE WAS
CRAZY...



WHEN DID I EVER ASK YOU TO BEAR ME A DAUGHTER, ANYWAY, EH? SAKON SLIKE IS MY SON! A BOY!

C'MON, SON!
YOU'VE GOTTA
COME AT ME LIKE
I'M YOUR MORTAL
ENEMY!!

ON
YOUR
FEET!

Y...
YES
SIR...

WHAP

* BAM

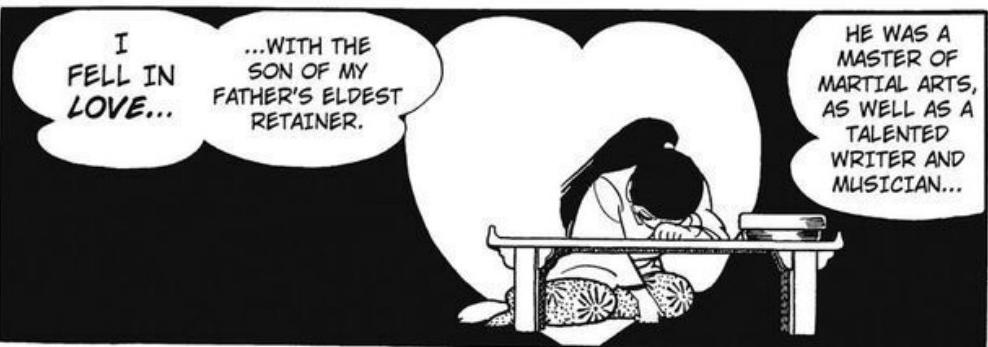
WHACK

WHAP

THWACK

KERWACK

BASH!



WE BECAME
DEEPLY
ATTACHED
TO ONE
ANOTHER...

BUT AS
SOON
AS THE
FEMININE
SIDE
OF ME
BEGAN TO
FLOWER...



FATHER TOOK
HIM AWAY
FROM ME...

AND SENT
HIM OFF TO
WAR...

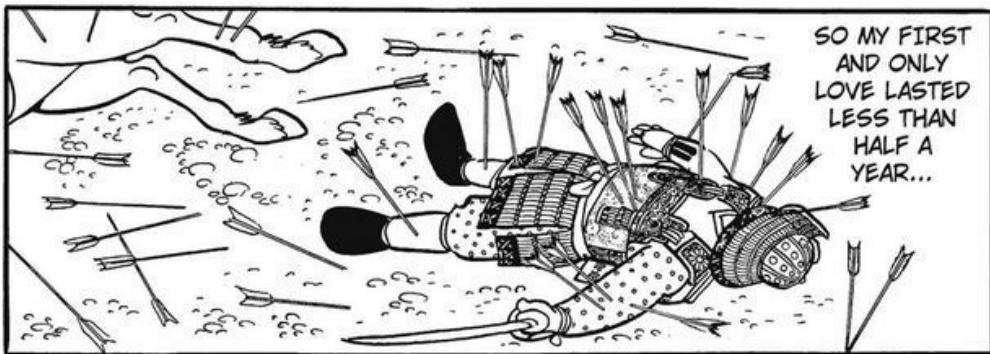


AND IN TWO
OR THREE
DAYS, I
RECEIVED
NOTICE THAT
HE HAD DIED
IN BATTLE!!

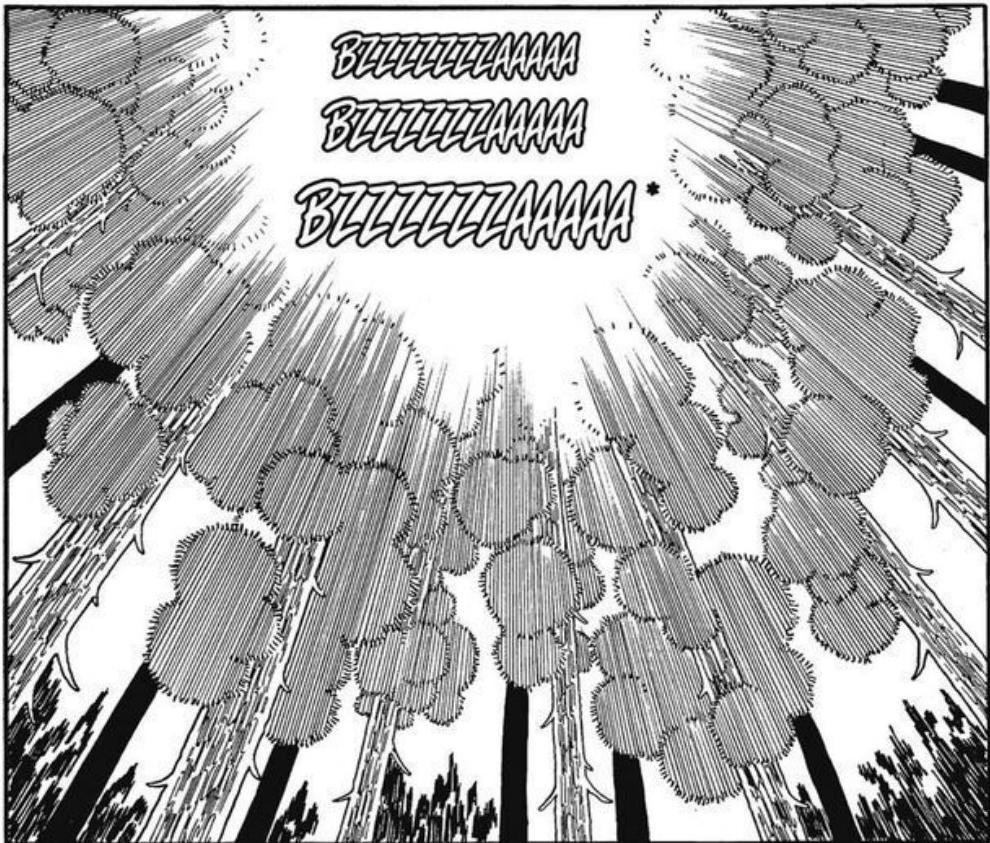


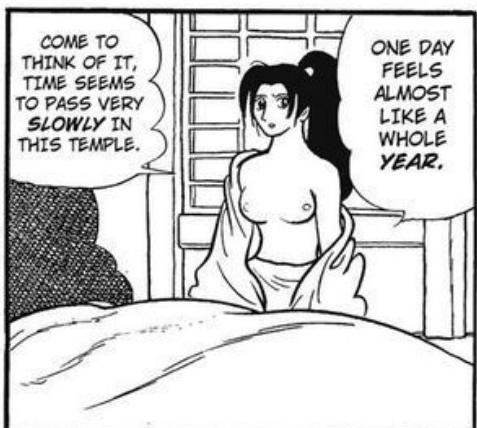
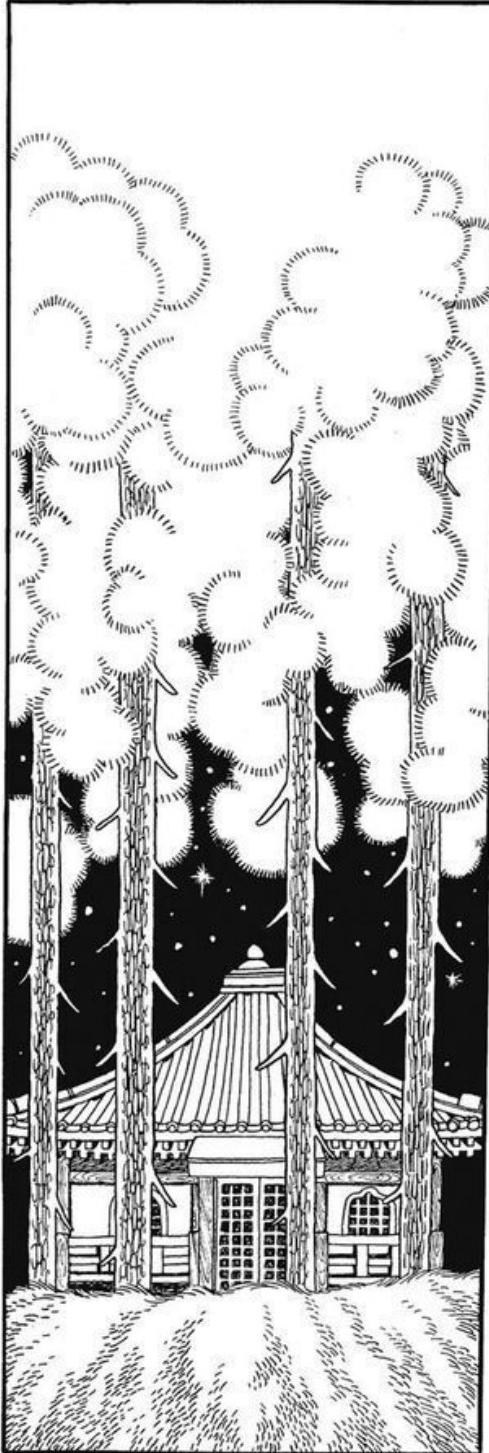
FATHER
HAD
DELIBERATELY
ABANDONED
HIM IN
FRONT OF
AN ENEMY
CASTLE.

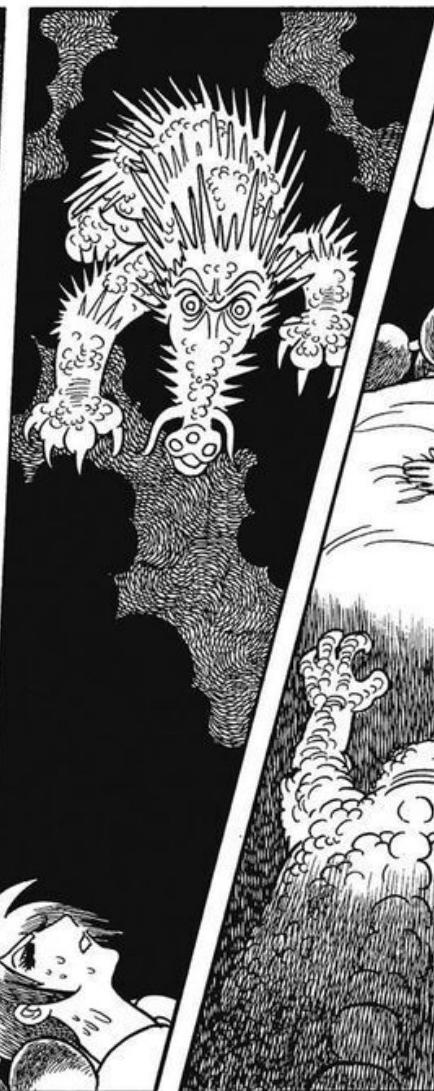










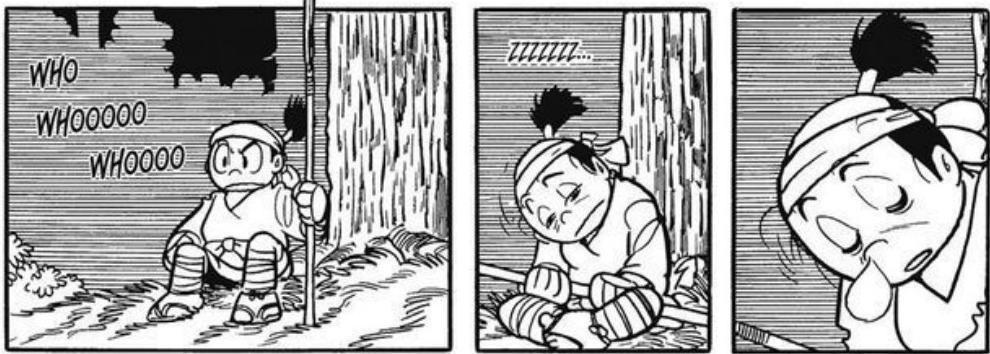


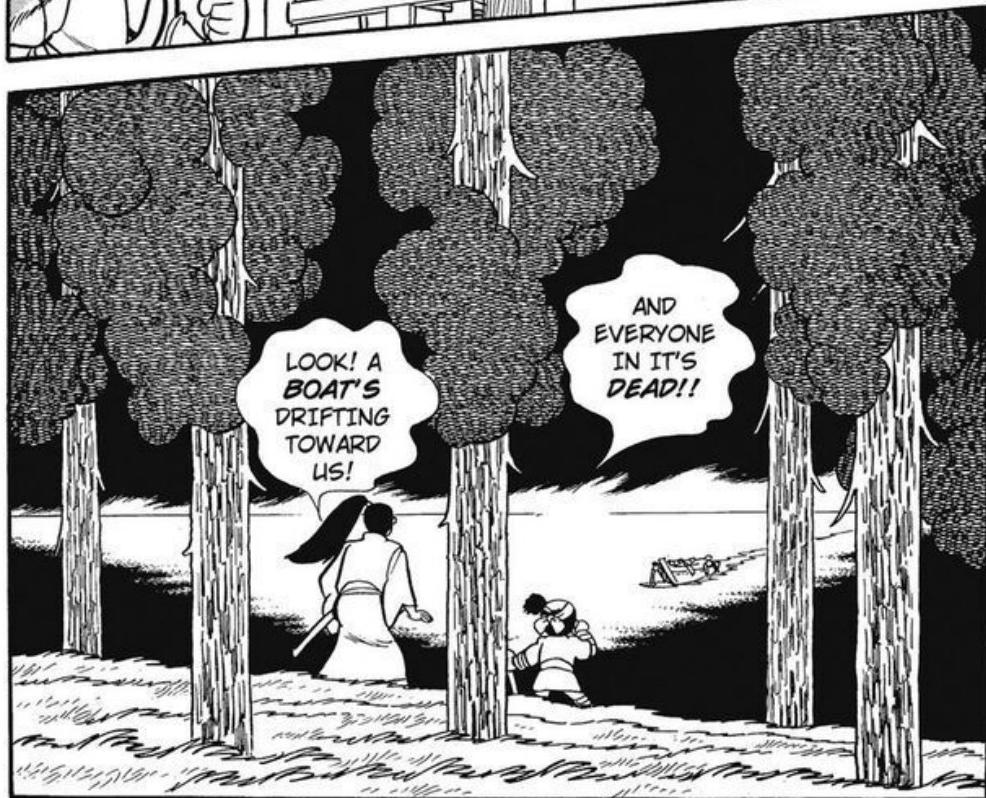
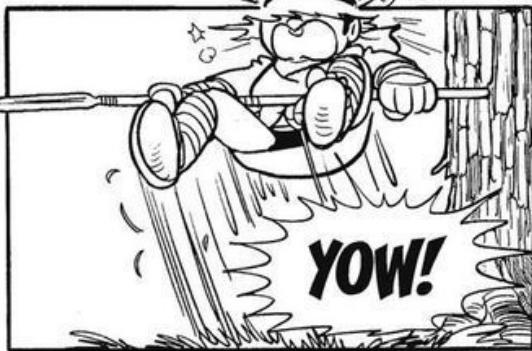
GIVE...
US...
BACK...
OUR...
LIVES...

AND...
OUR...
LEGS...

HELP...
US...
PLEASE...!





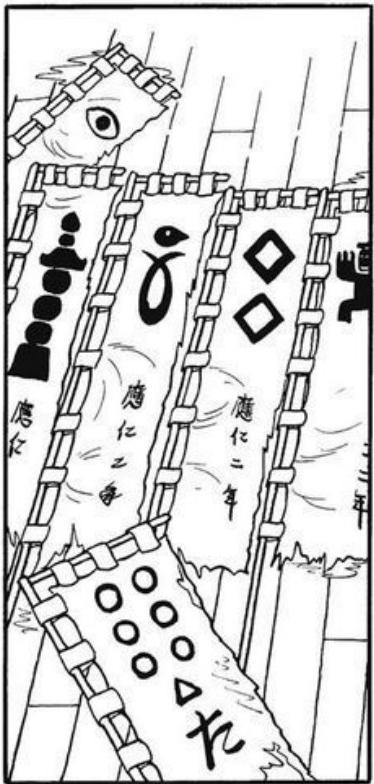








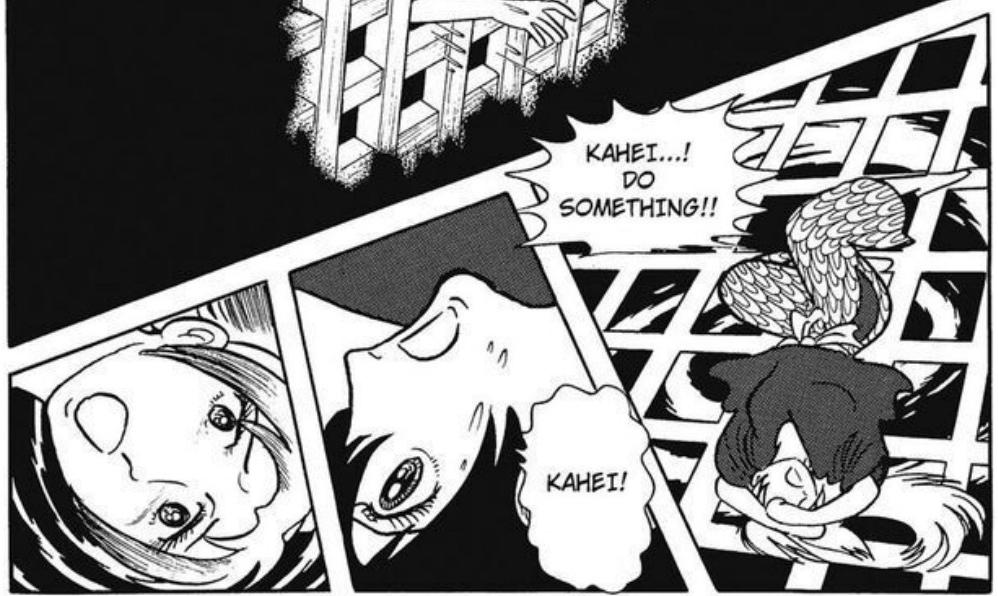
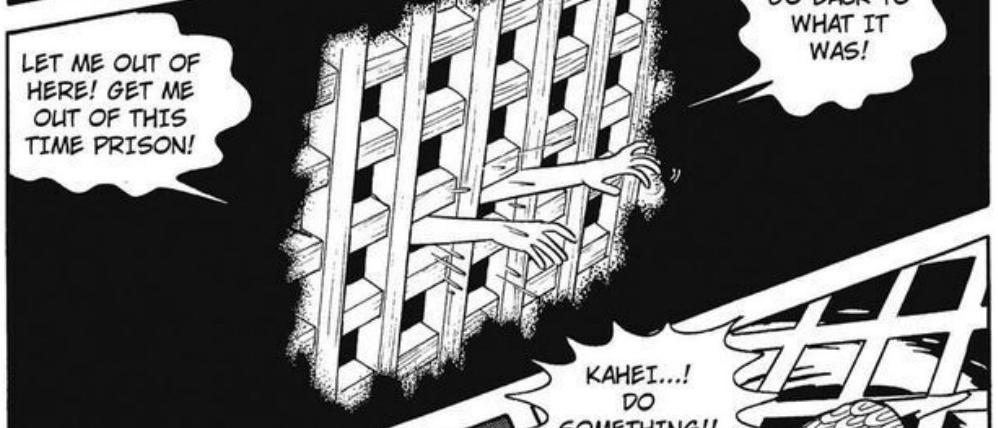
2ND YEAR OF THE ONIN ERA: 1468 A.D.

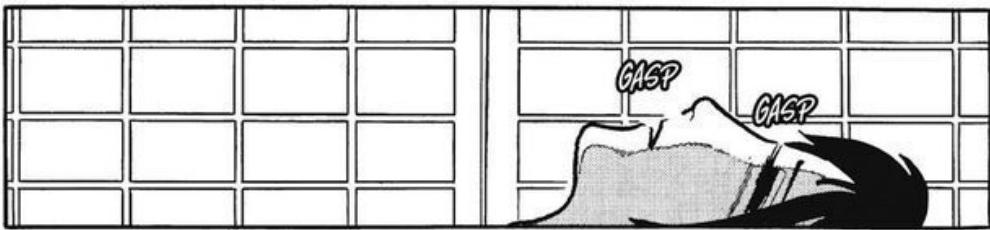




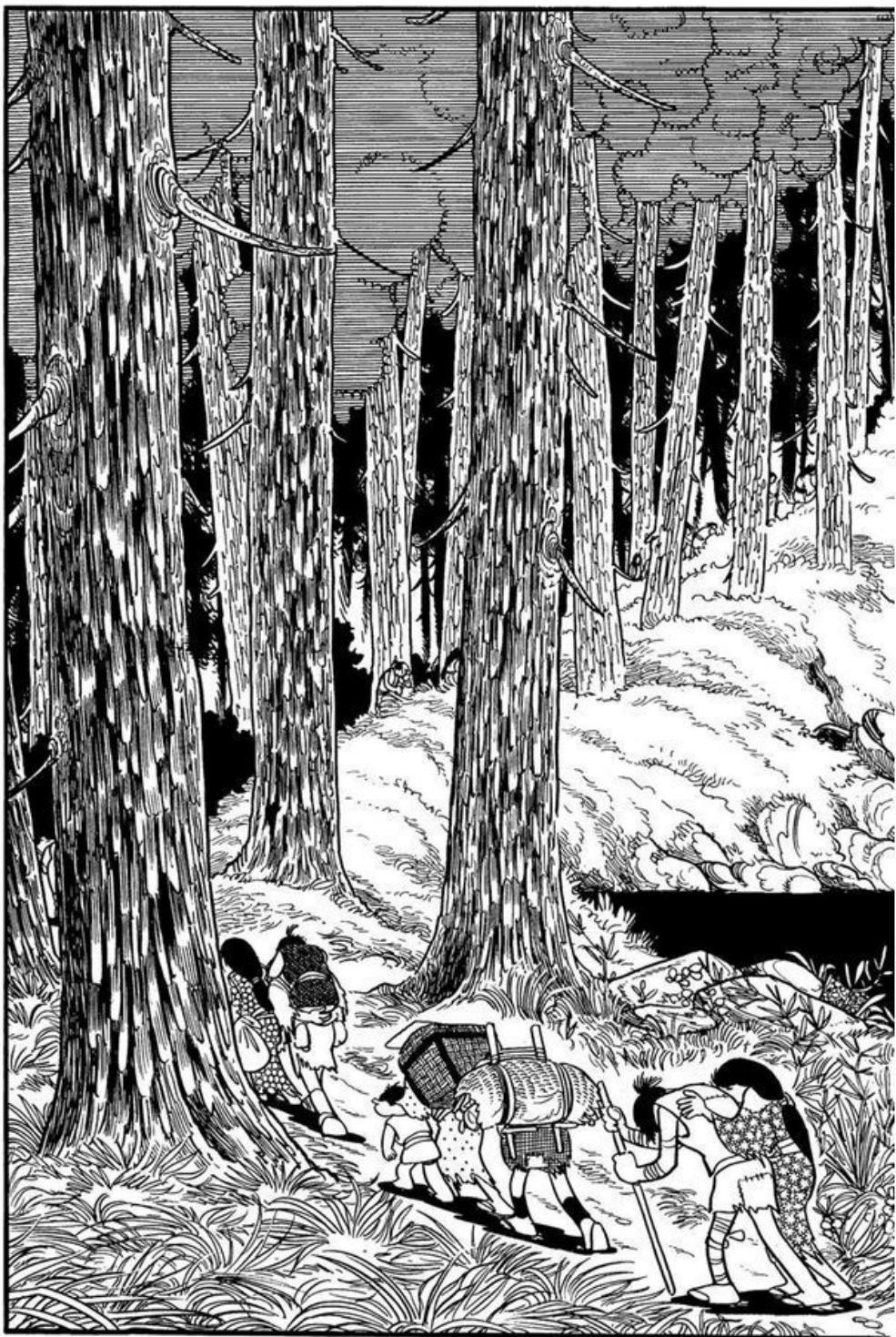
HELP ME !!

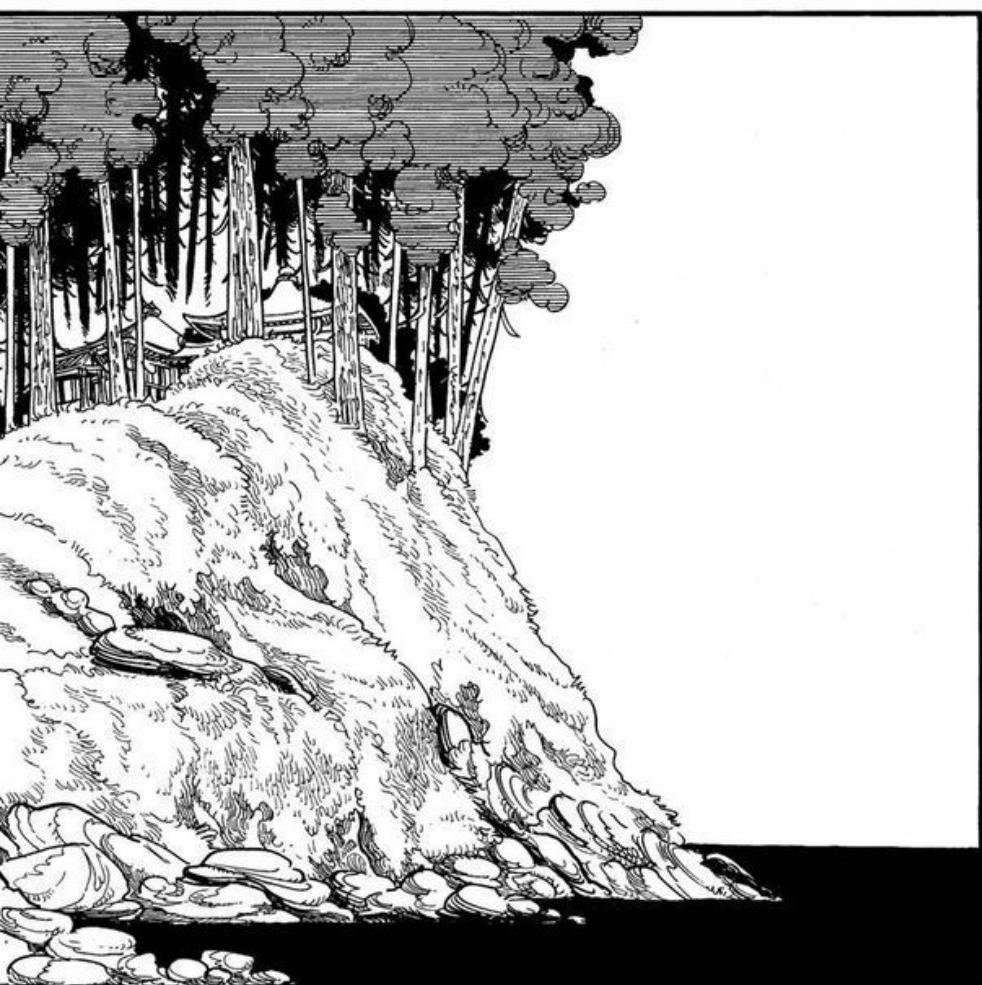
THIS IS
IMPOSSIBLE!
TIME CAN'T RUN
BACKWARDS! WE MUST
BE CURSED!



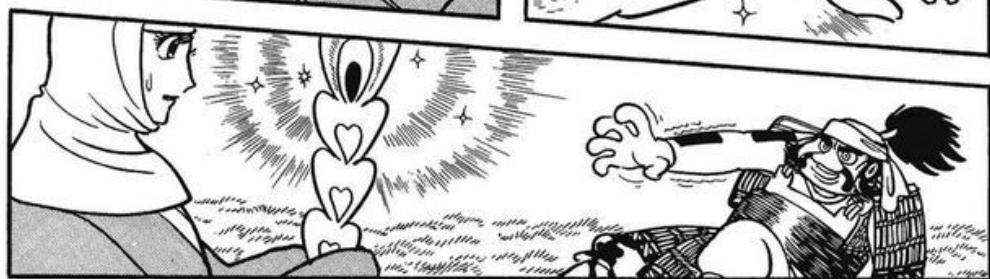
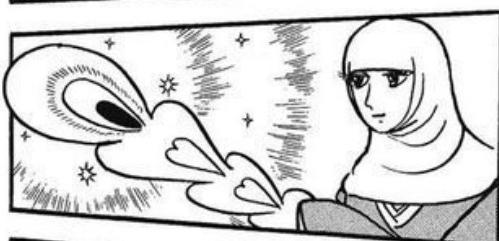
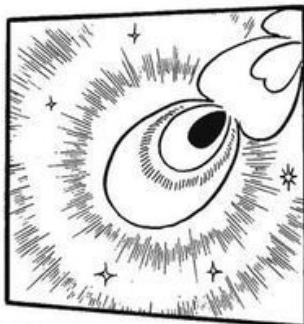
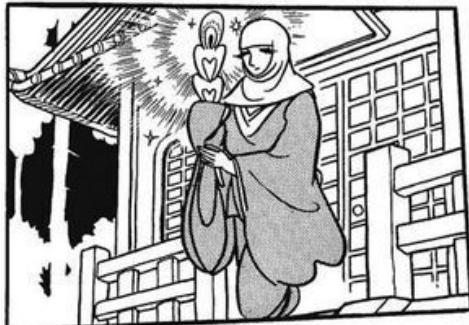


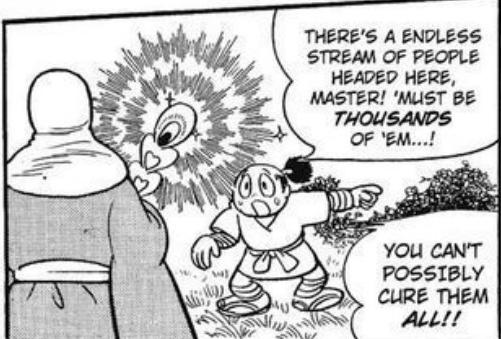
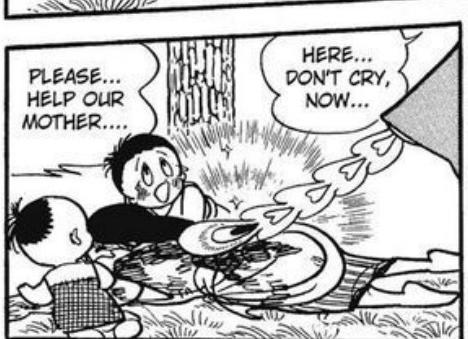
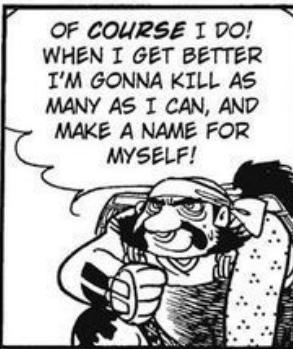
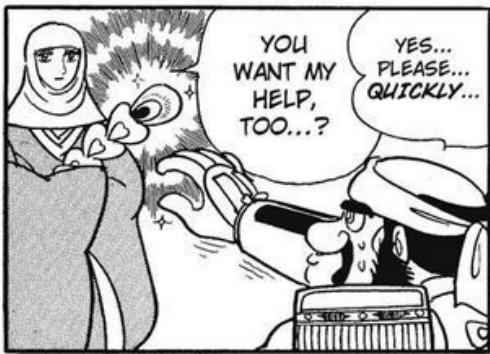


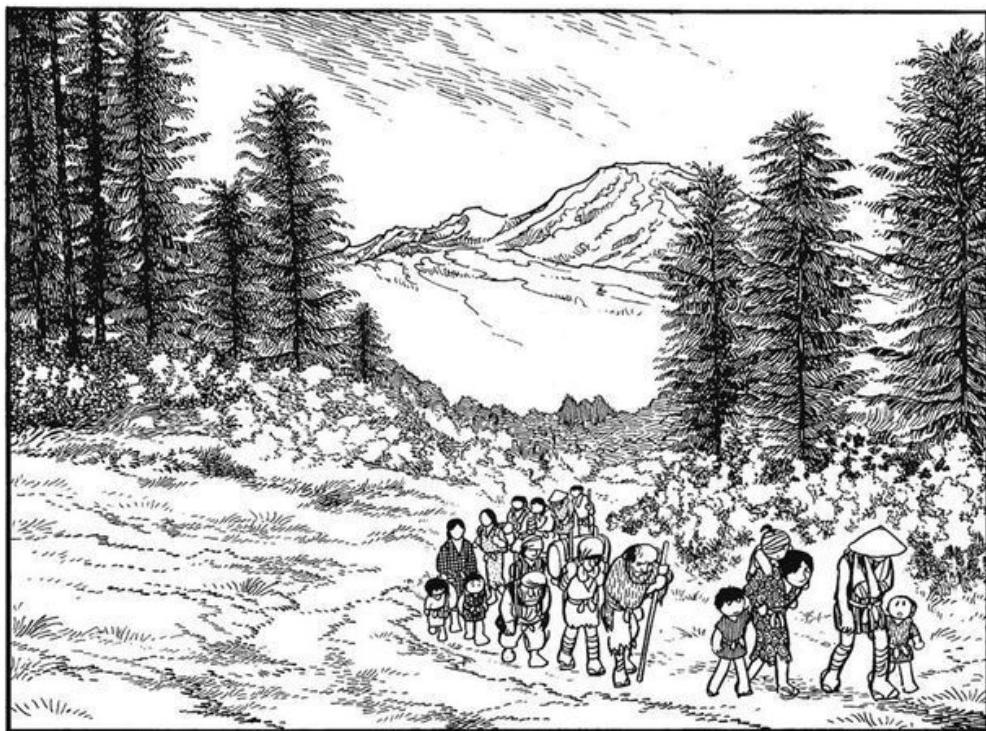




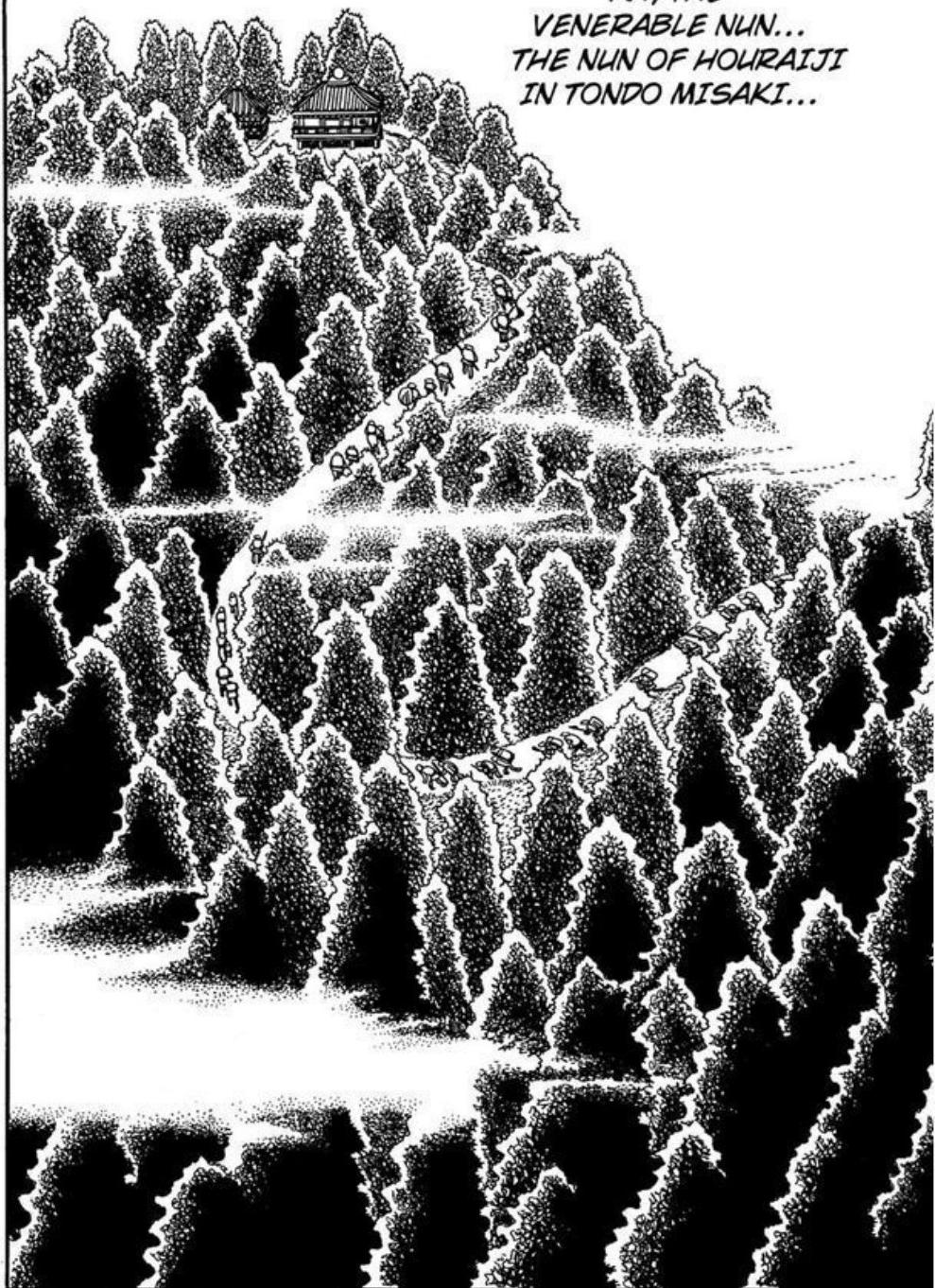






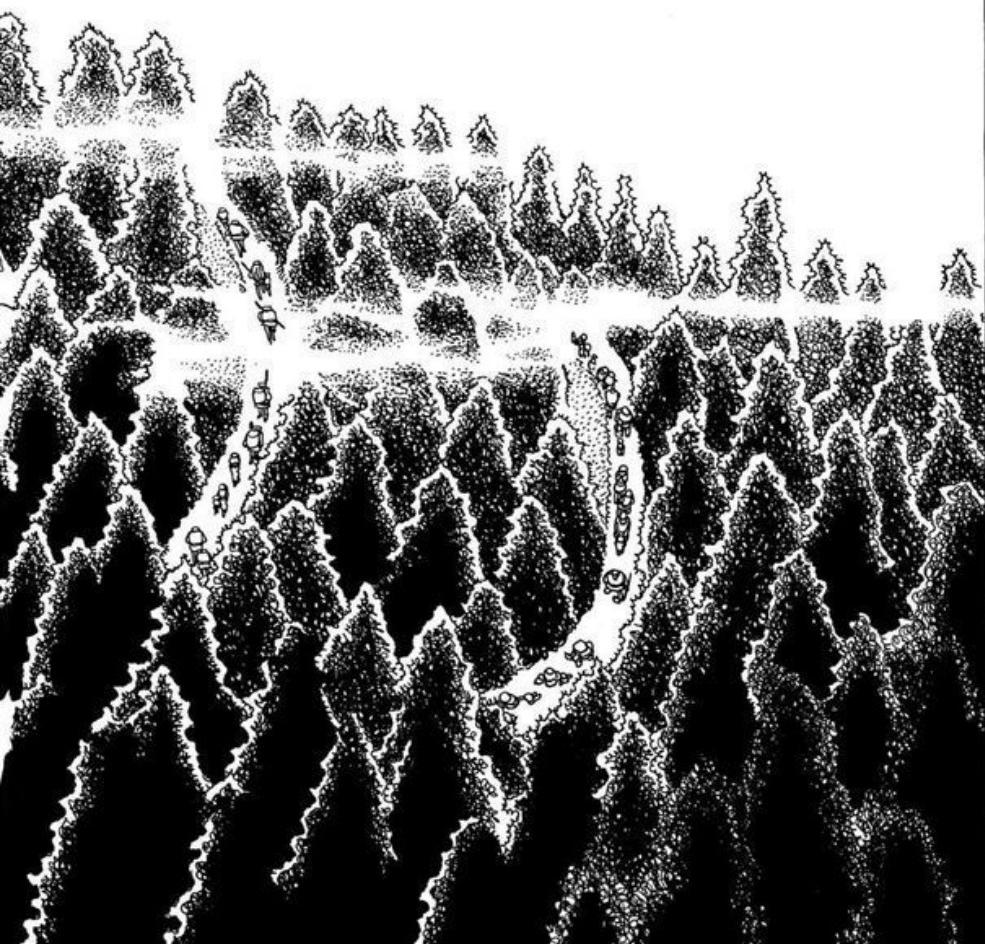


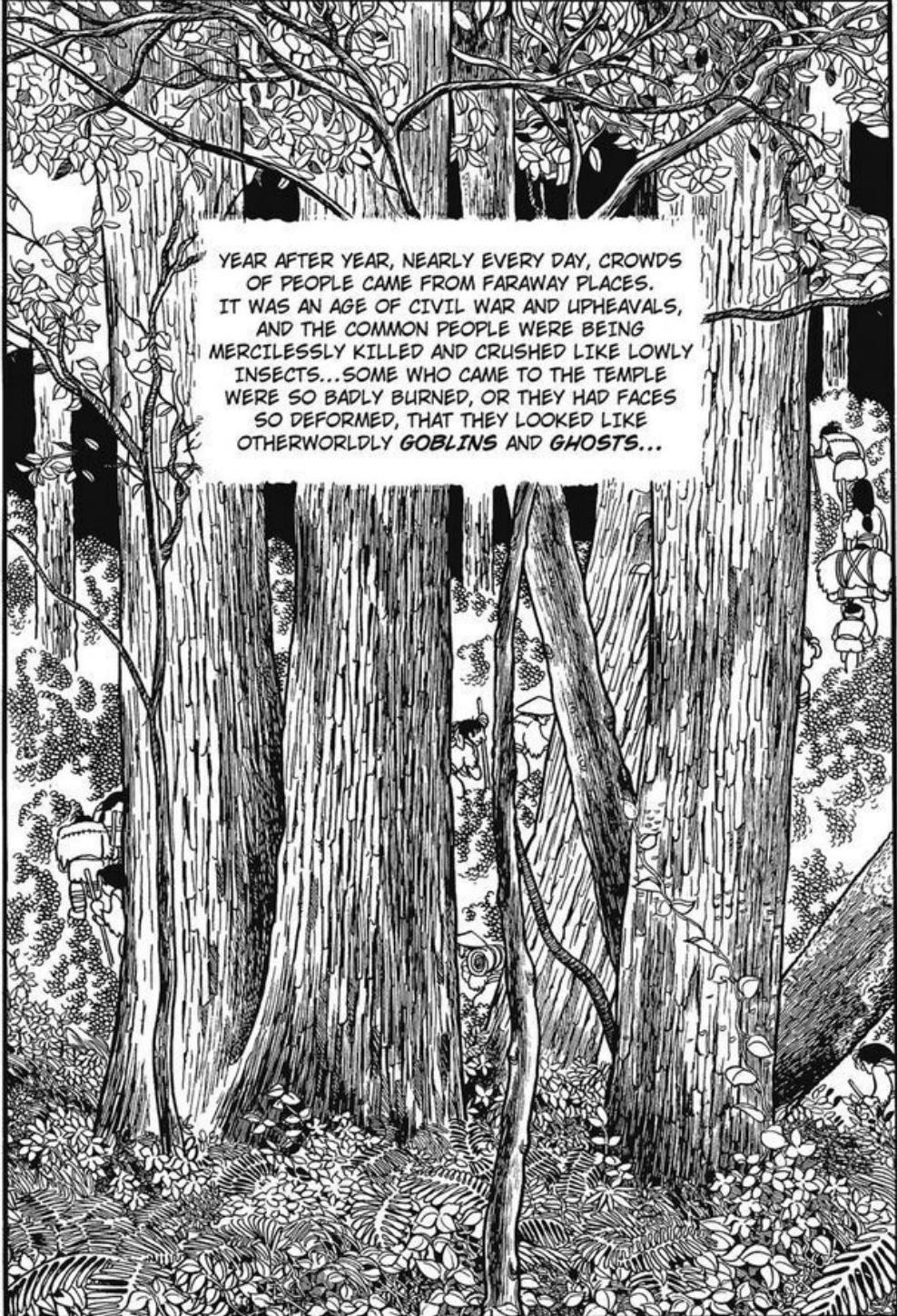
AH, THE
VENERABLE NUN...
THE NUN OF HOURAIJI
IN TONDO MISAKI...



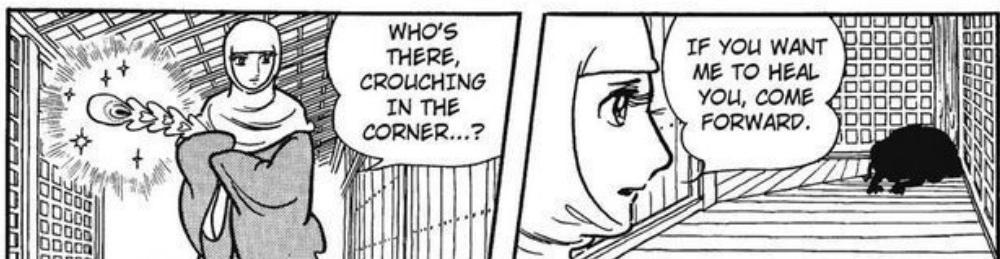
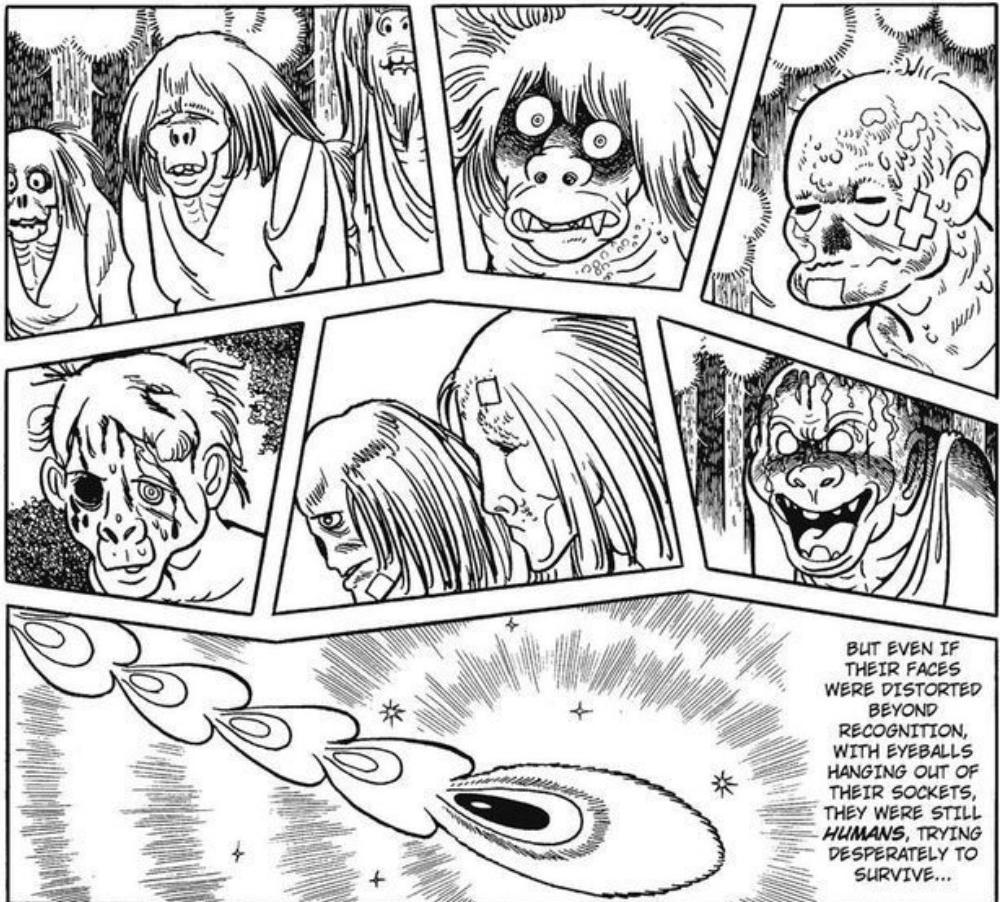
OUR BELOVED NUN
HATES WAR...
PROTECTS THE
COMMON PEOPLE...
HEALS WOUNDS
FROM FIRE AND
SWORD...

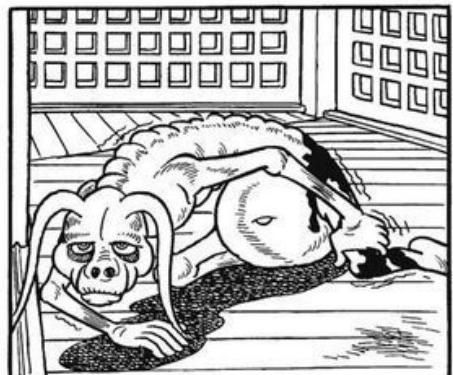
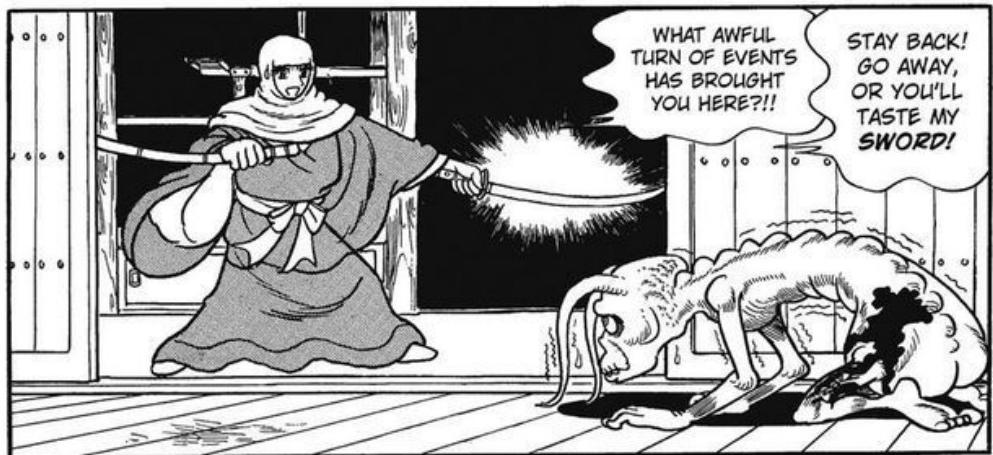
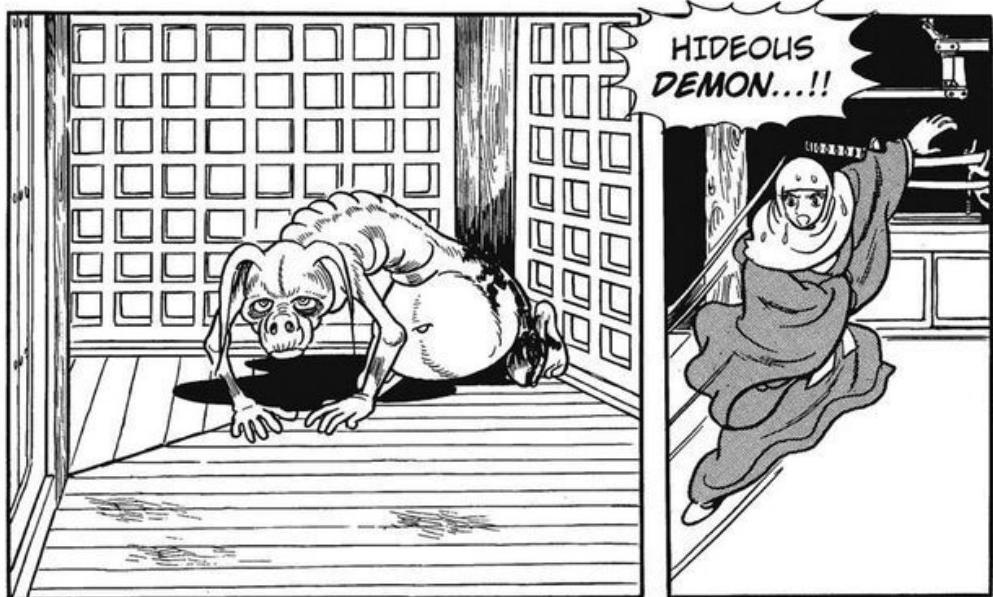
IF IT'S PROOF
YOU WANT...
ASK ANY MAN...
ASK ANY WOMAN...

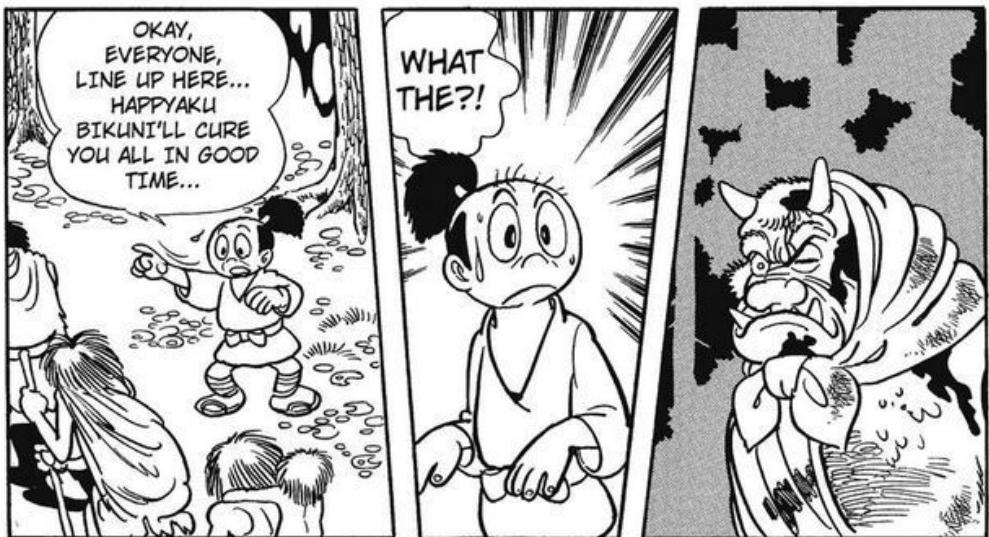
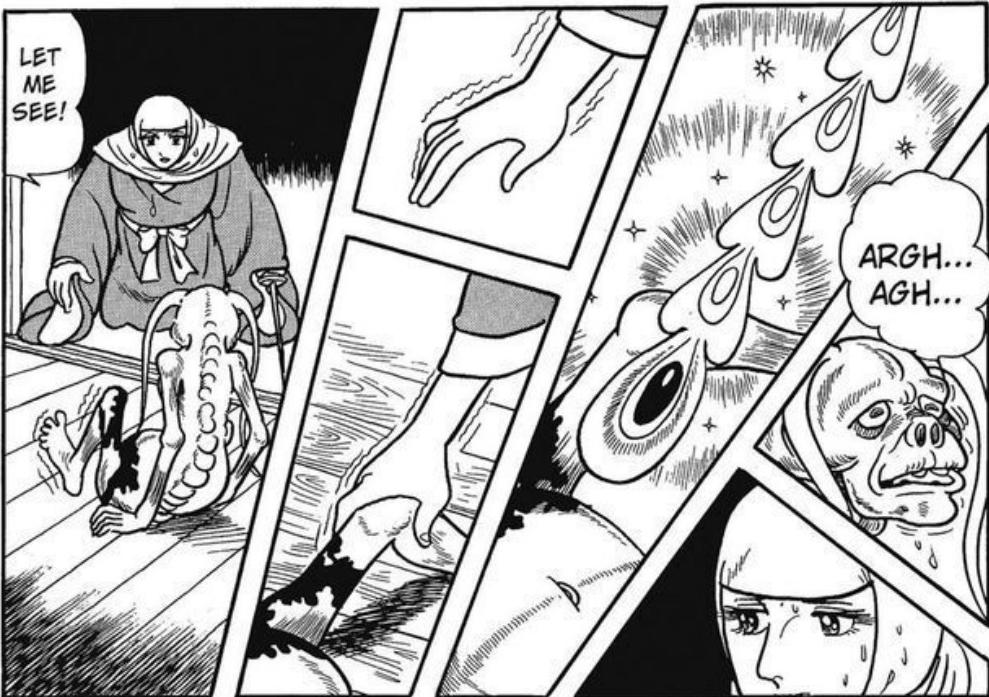




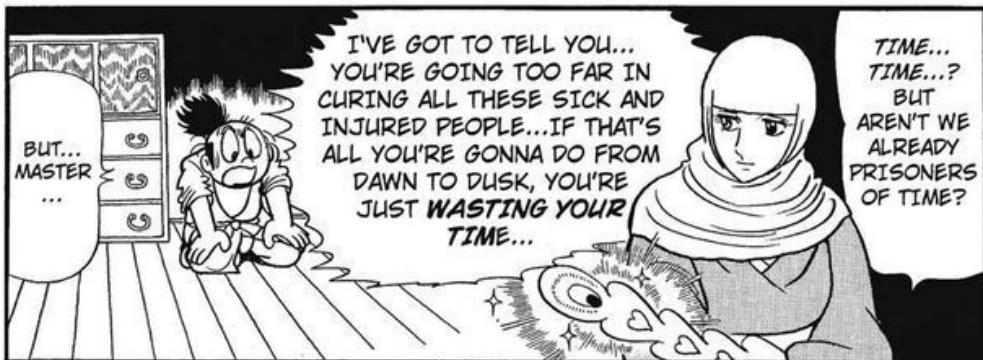
YEAR AFTER YEAR, NEARLY EVERY DAY, CROWDS
OF PEOPLE CAME FROM FARAWAY PLACES.
IT WAS AN AGE OF CIVIL WAR AND UPHEAVALS,
AND THE COMMON PEOPLE WERE BEING
MERCILESSLY KILLED AND CRUSHED LIKE LOWLY
INSECTS... SOME WHO CAME TO THE TEMPLE
WERE SO BADLY BURNED, OR THEY HAD FACES
SO DEFORMED, THAT THEY LOOKED LIKE
OTHERWORLDLY GOBLINS AND GHOSTS...

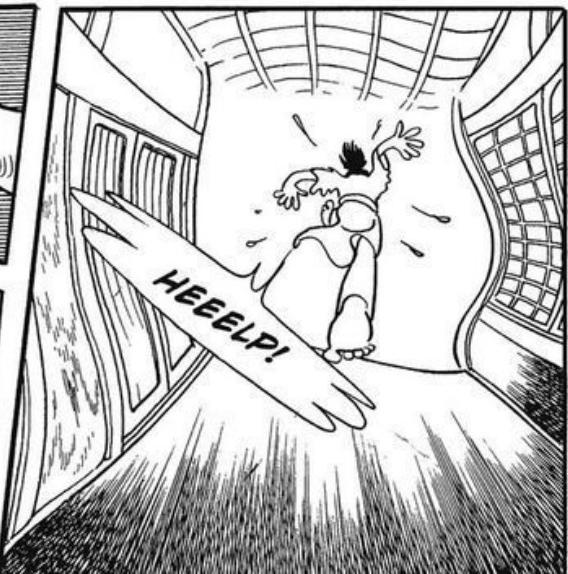
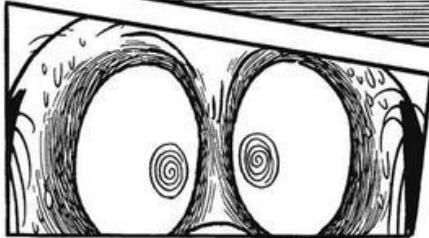
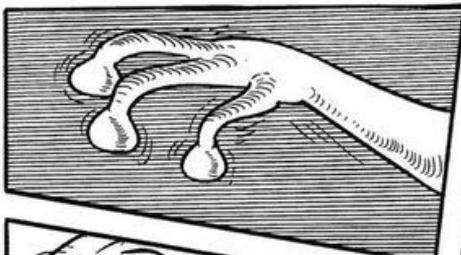


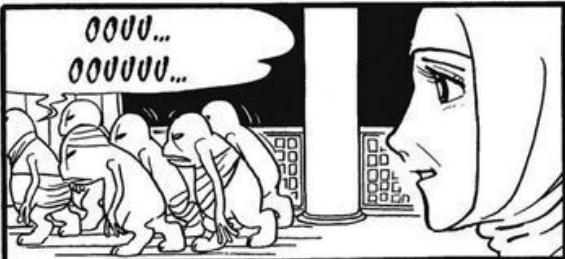
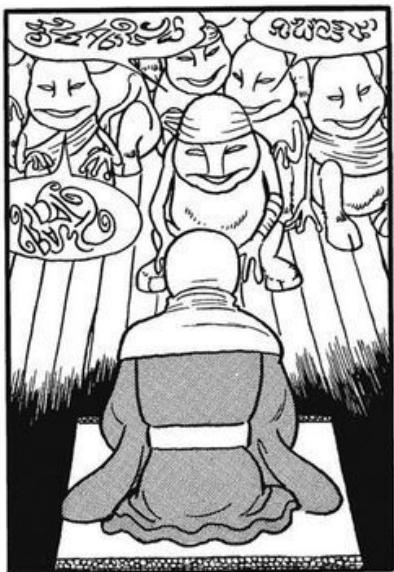




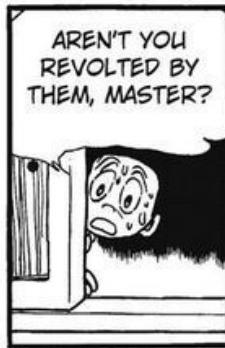


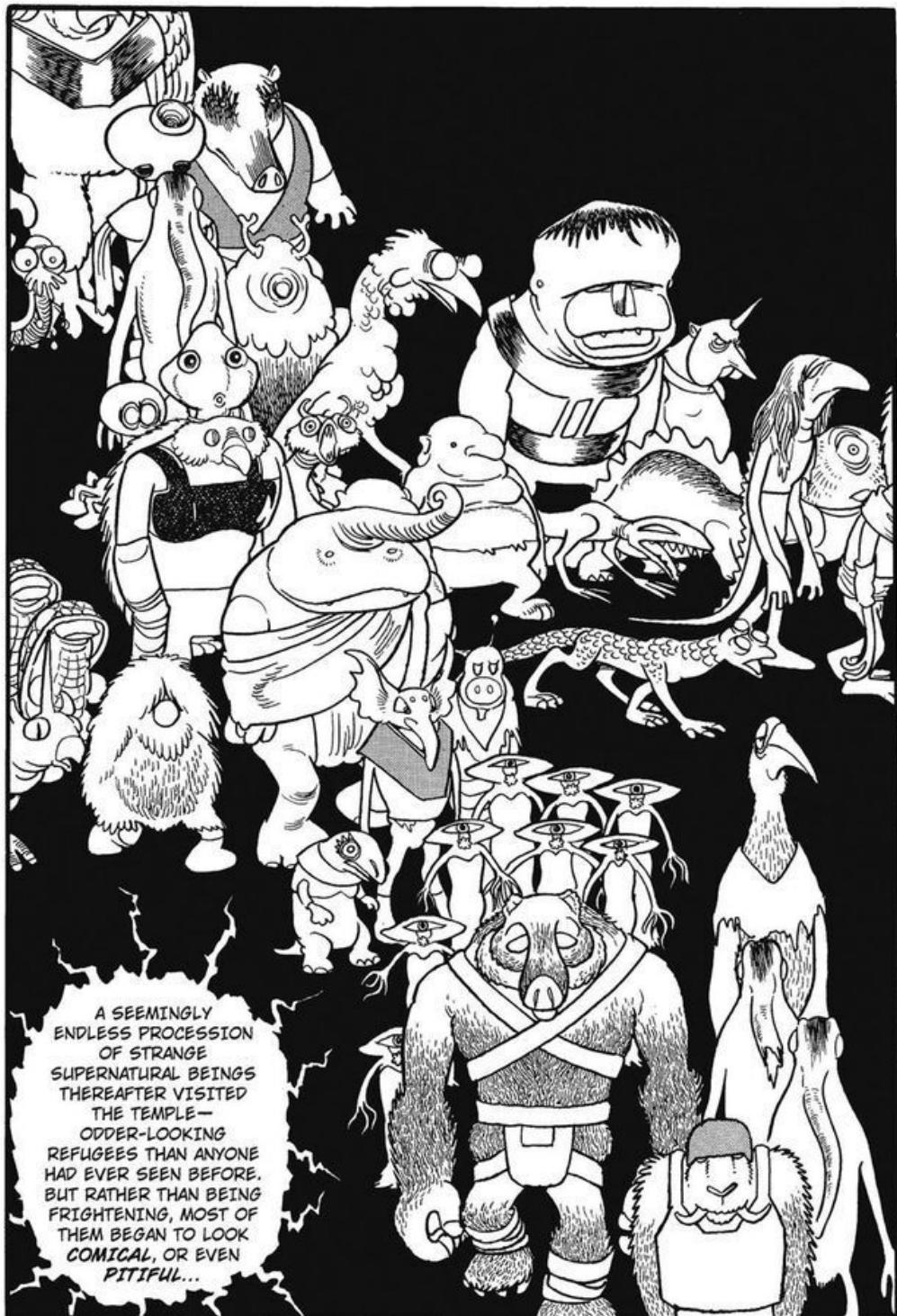




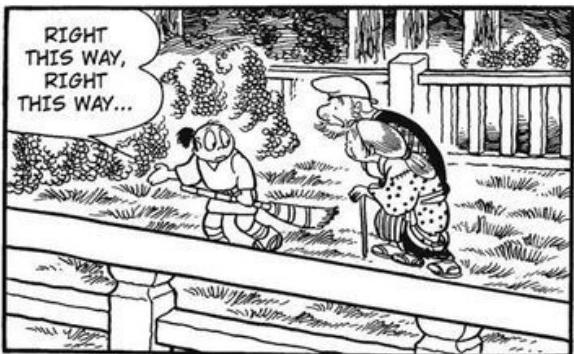
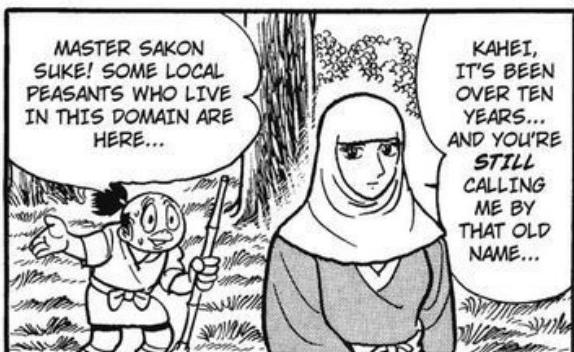
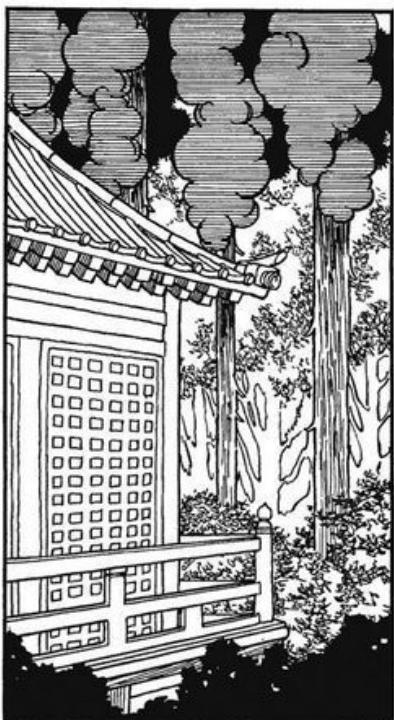




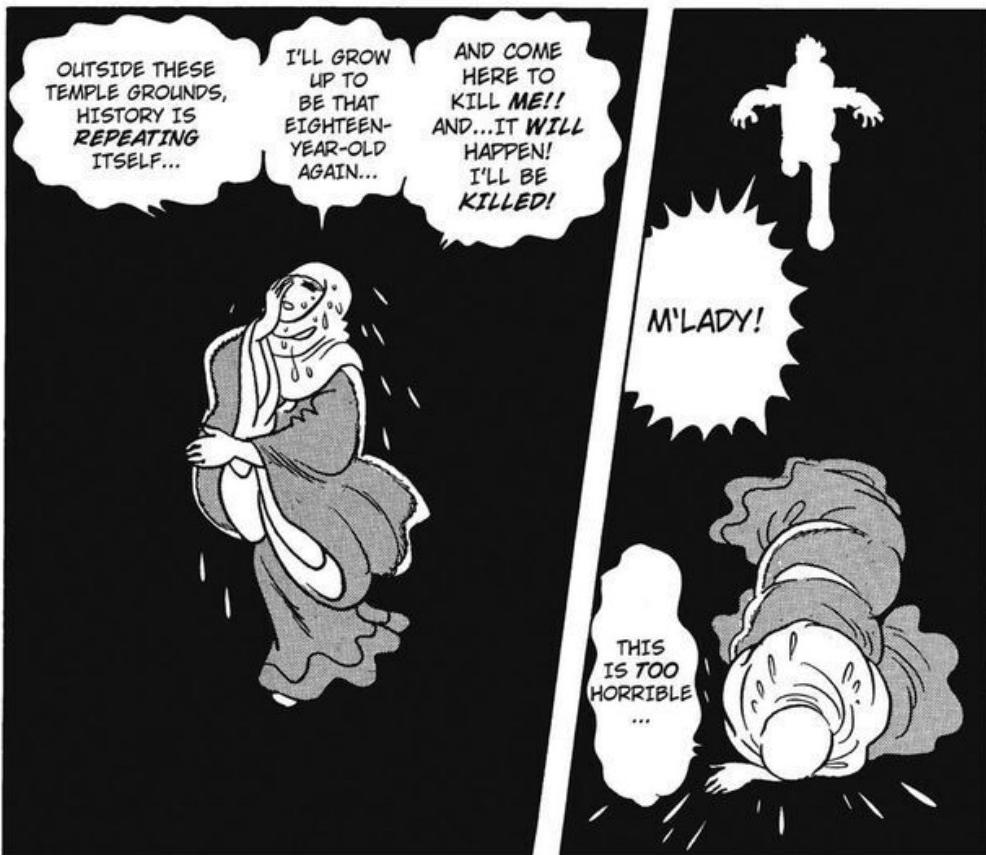




A SEEMINGLY
ENDLESS PROCESSION
OF STRANGE
SUPERNATURAL BEINGS
THEREAFTER VISITED
THE TEMPLE—
ODDER-LOOKING
REFUGEES THAN ANYONE
HAD EVER SEEN BEFORE.
BUT RATHER THAN BEING
FRIGHTENING, MOST OF
THEM BEGAN TO LOOK
COMICAL, OR EVEN
PITIFUL...

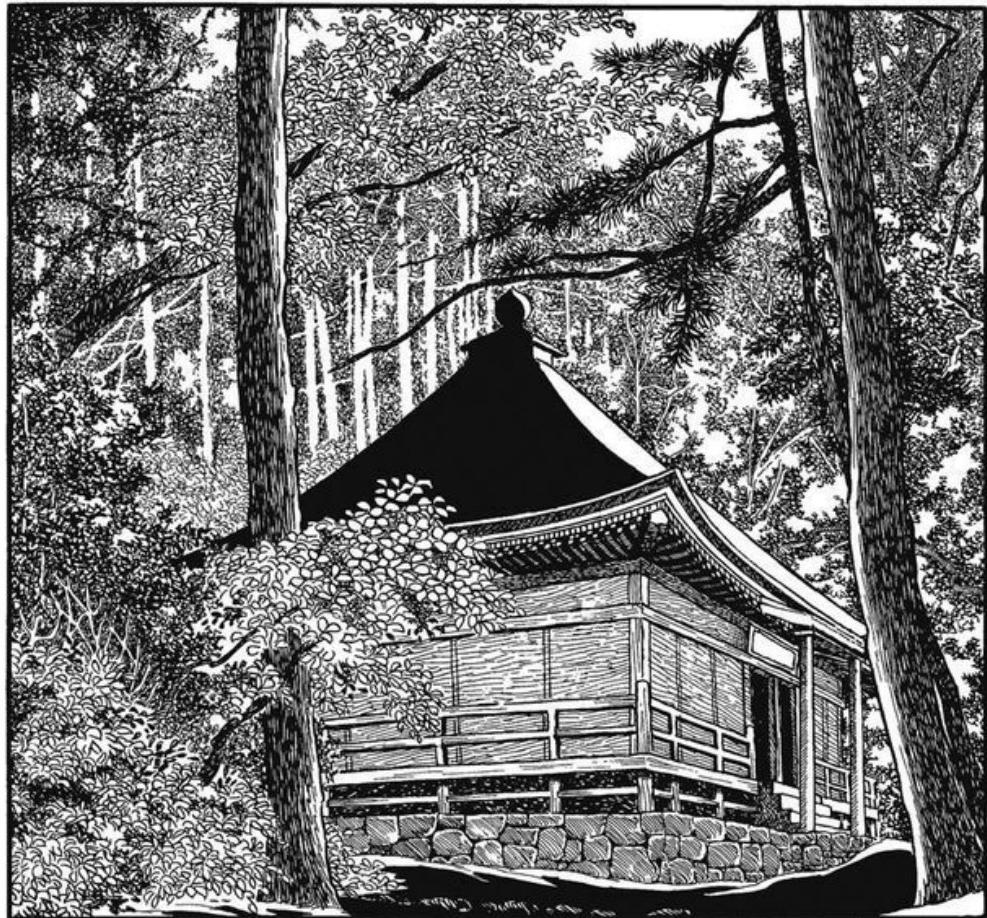


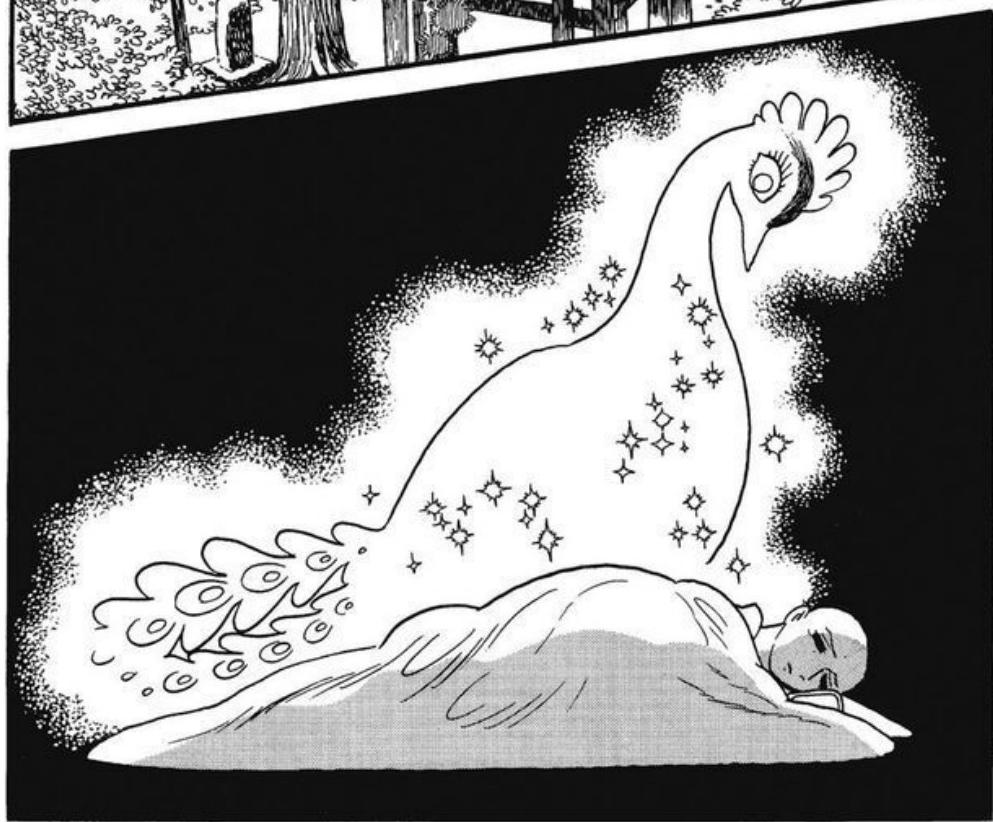
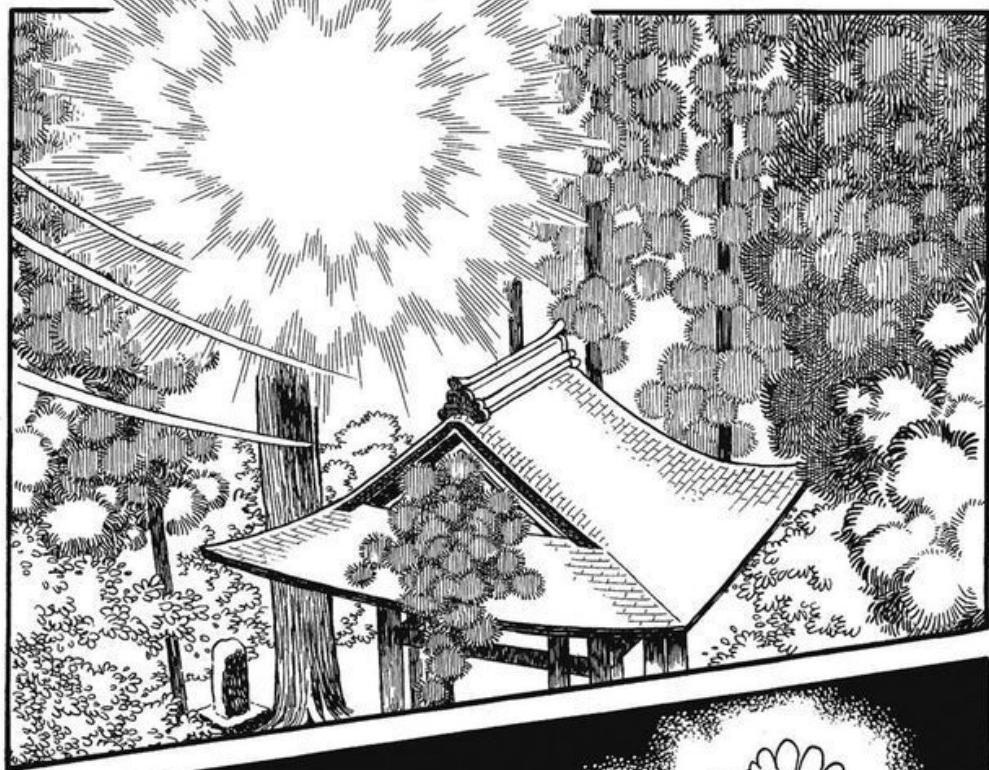


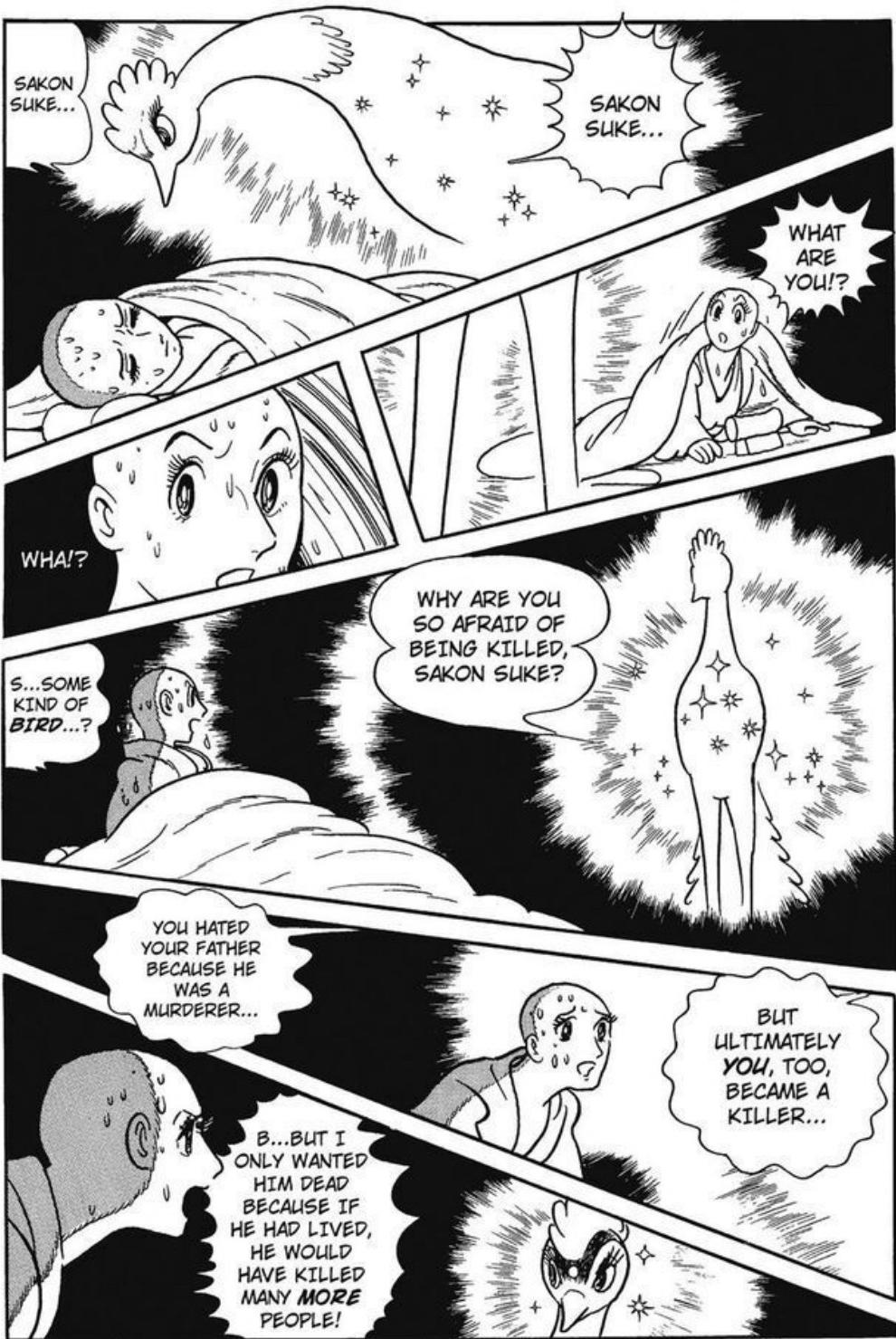


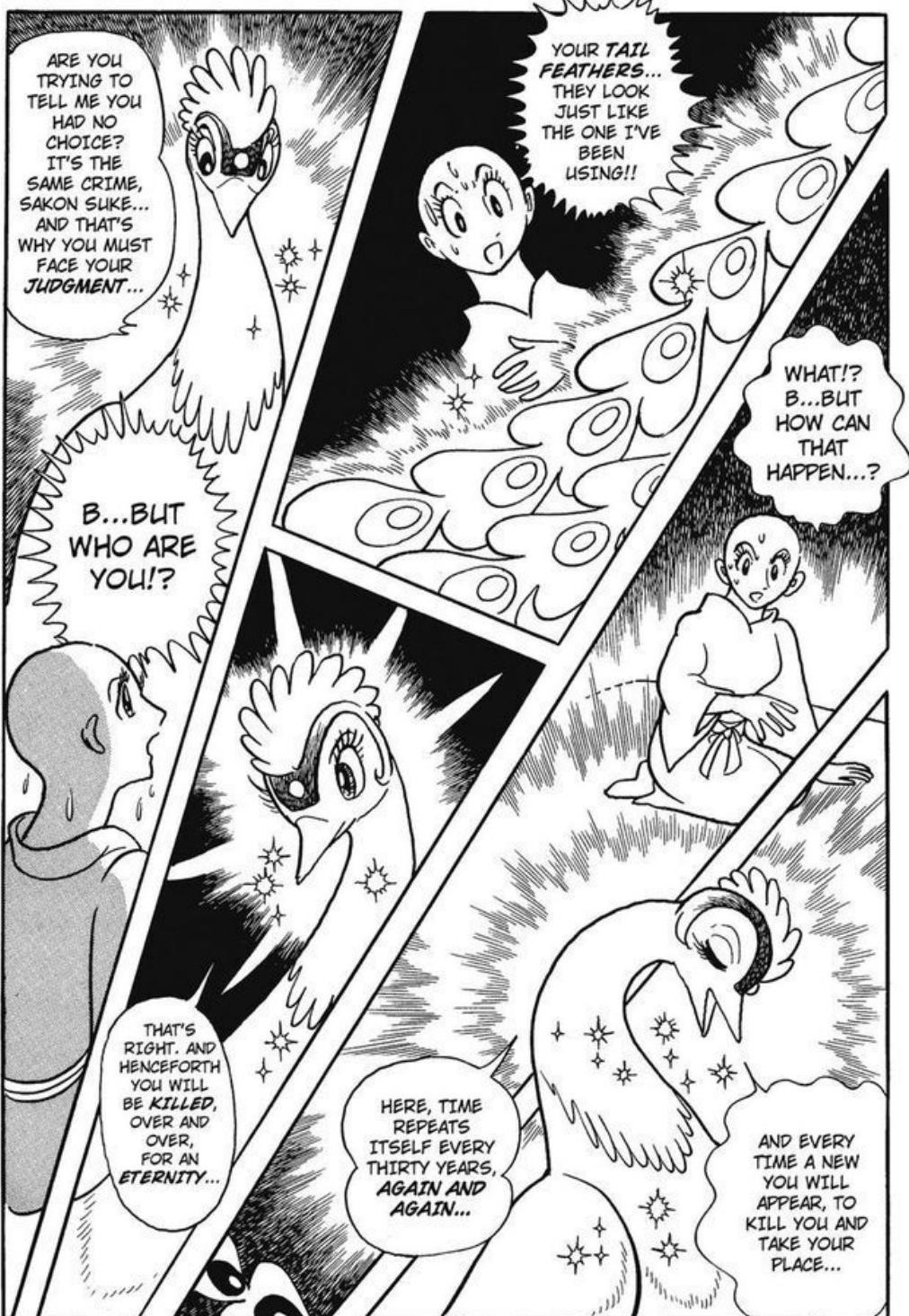
THE PERSON I'LL CUT
DOWN WILL BE ME!
THE HEAD I'LL CUT
OFF WILL BE MY
OWN! AND THAT DAY
IS COMING CLOSER
AND CLOSER!!

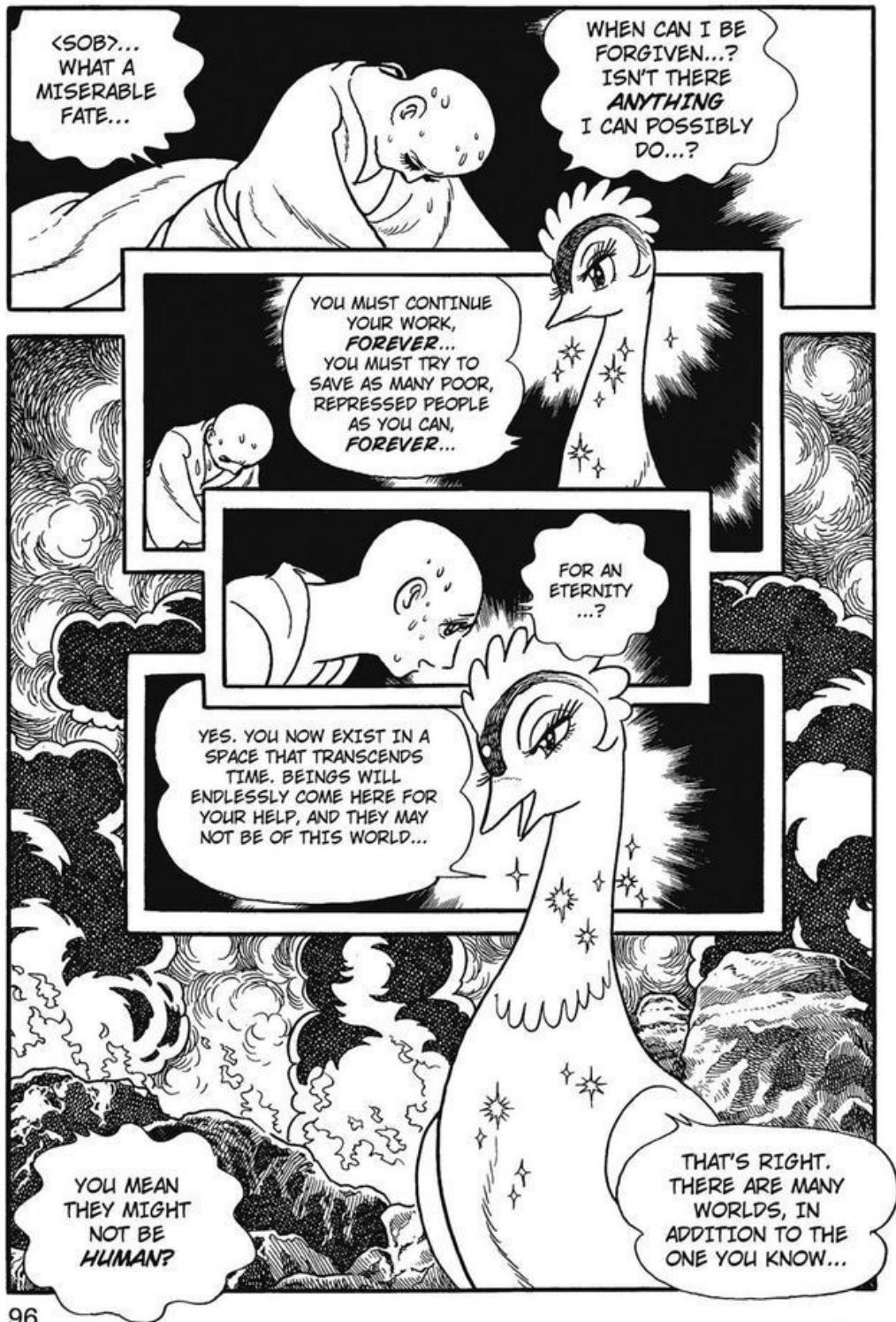
OH,
KAHEI!!
HELP
ME!!



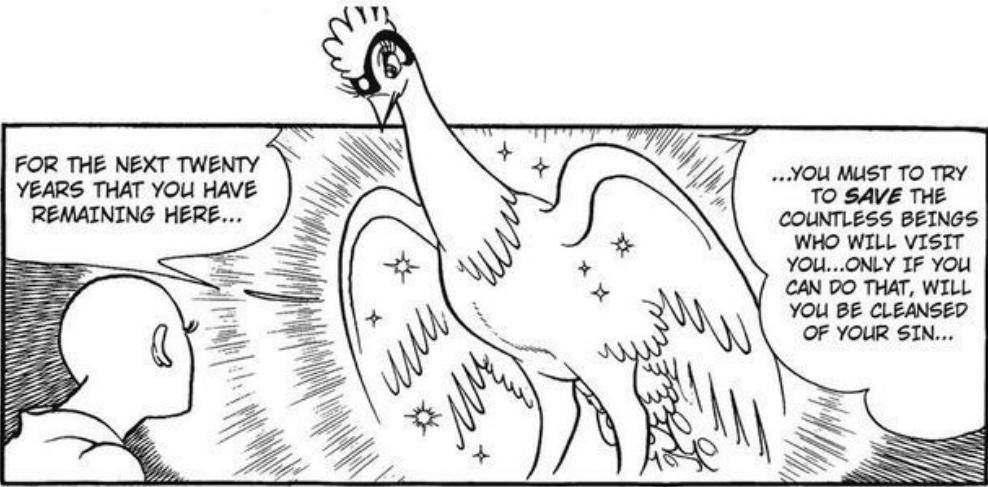












FOR THE NEXT TWENTY
YEARS THAT YOU HAVE
REMAINING HERE...

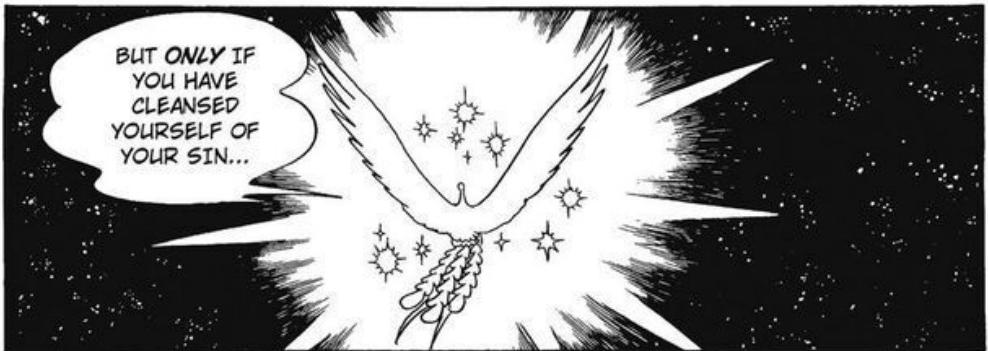
...YOU MUST TRY
TO SAVE THE
COUNTLESS BEINGS
WHO WILL VISIT
YOU...ONLY IF YOU
CAN DO THAT, WILL
YOU BE CLEANSED
OF YOUR SIN...



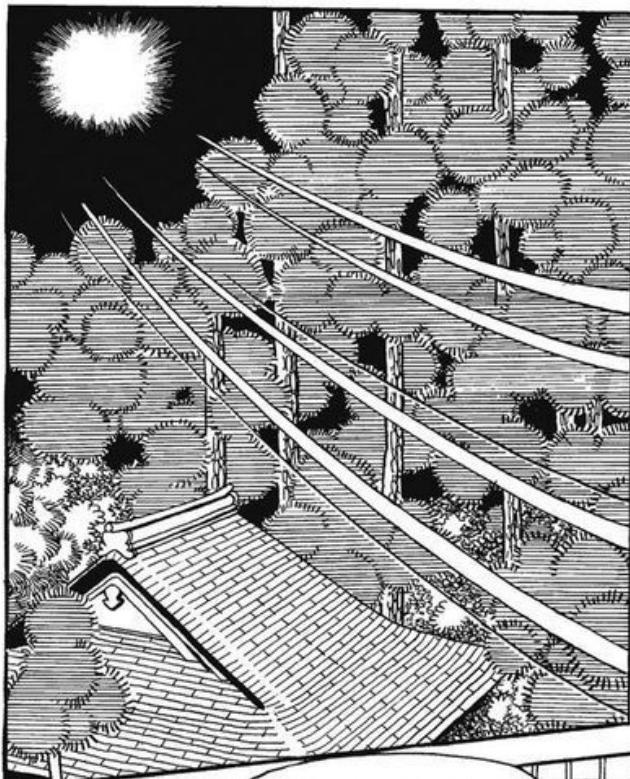
EVERY THIRTY
YEARS, THE TIME
IN THIS SPACE
RETURNS TO THE
PRESENT...

AND FOR ONE SINGLE
DAY, BEFORE TIME
STARTS TO REVERSE
AGAIN, IT WILL BE
POSSIBLE TO
LEAVE, AND TO
RE-ENTER THE
OUTSIDE
WORLD...

IF YOU HAVE
CLEANSED YOURSELF
OF YOUR SIN BY
THEN, YOU MAY THEN
RETURN TO THE
WORLD FROM WHICH
YOU FIRST CAME...



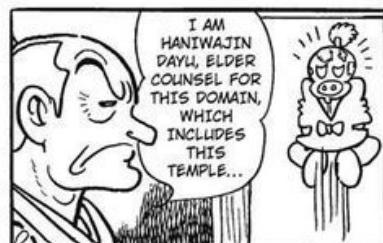
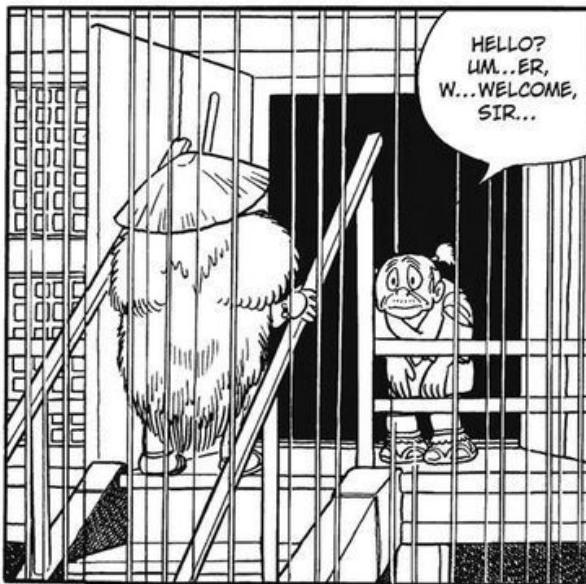
BUT ONLY IF
YOU HAVE
CLEANSED
YOURSELF OF
YOUR SIN...



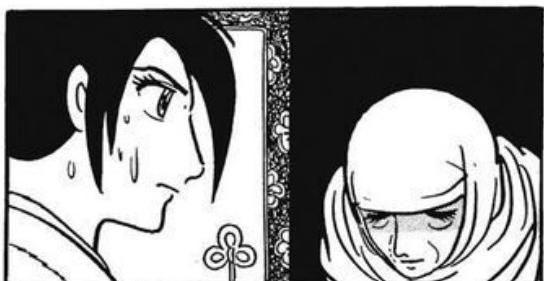


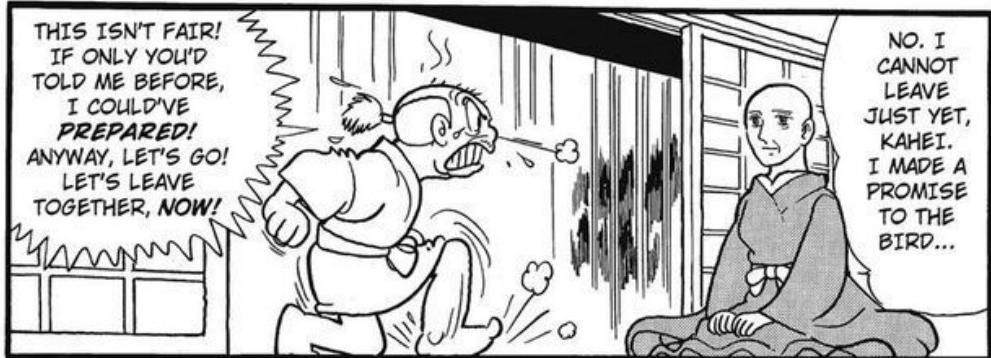
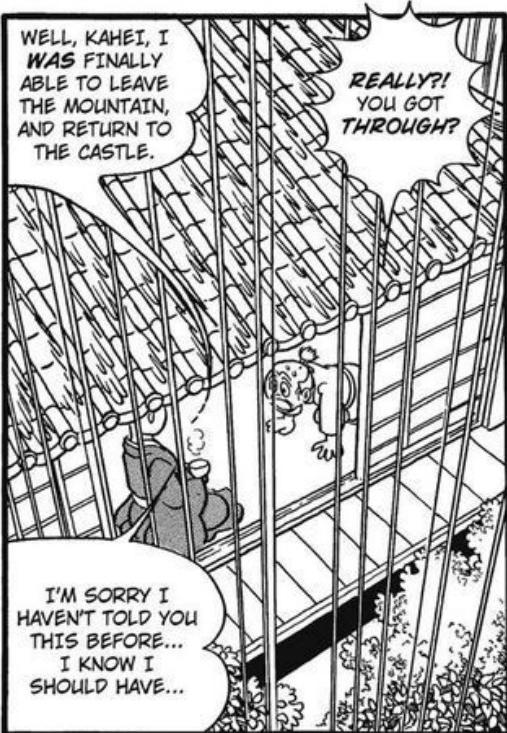
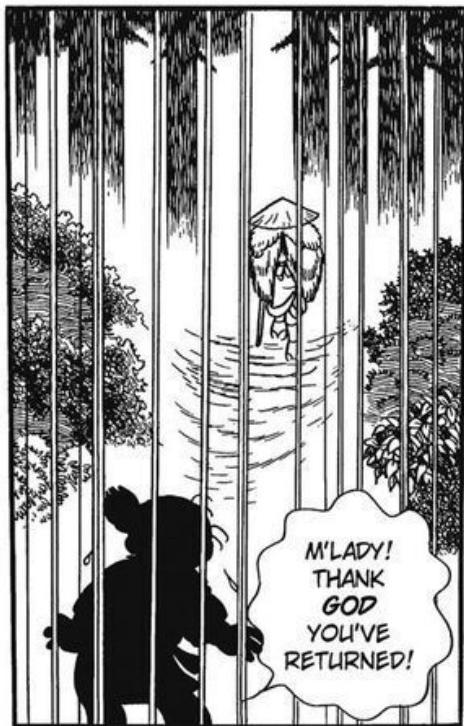
AFTER THAT, YEAR AFTER YEAR
PASSED...AND DAY AFTER DAY,
ALMOST WITHOUT STOPPING TO
REST, SAKON SUKE CONTINUED
TO TREAT HER SUFFERING
VISITORS. EVENTUALLY,
WITHOUT REALIZING IT,
SHE BEGAN TO FORGET HER
OWN SUFFERING AND PAIN,
TO DEVELOP A PURE AND
INNOCENT MIND, AS CLEAR AS
THE STARS IN THE HEAVENS...

THEN, ONE DAY...



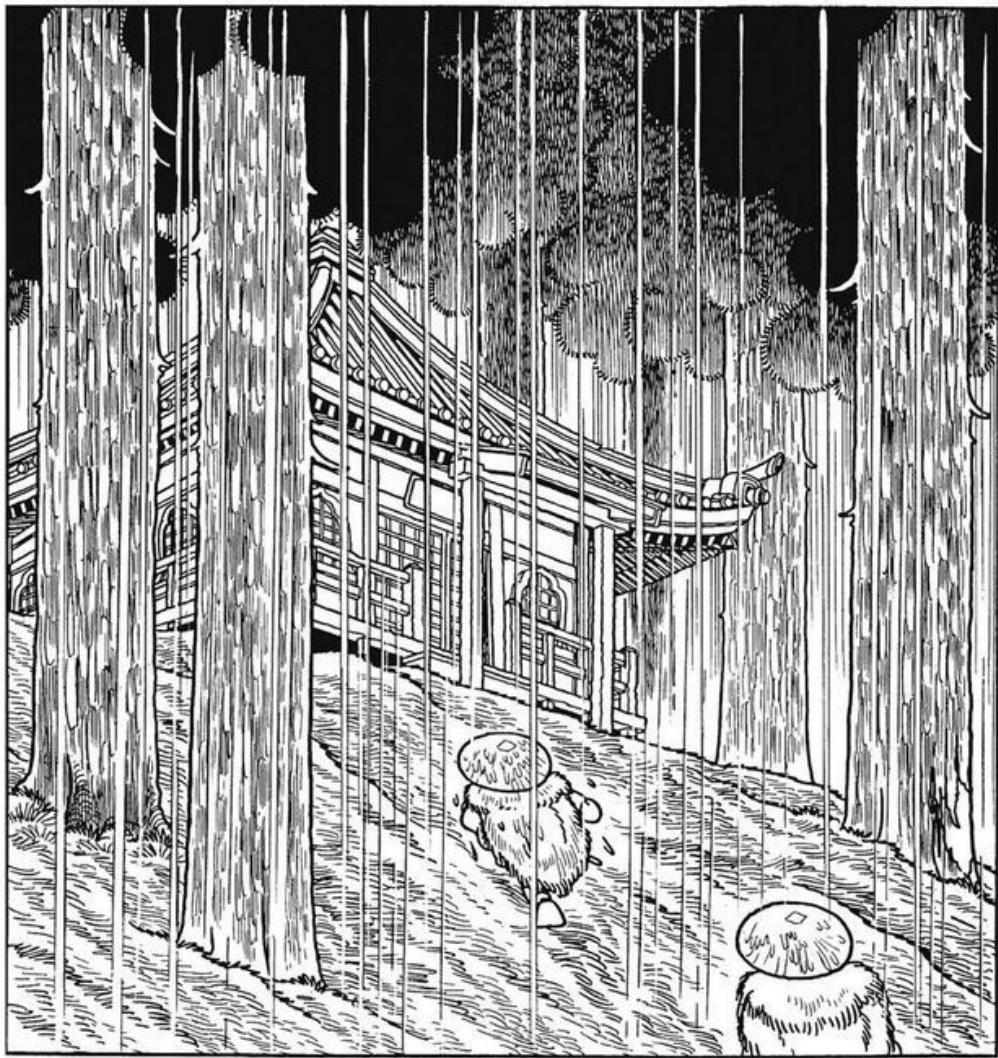




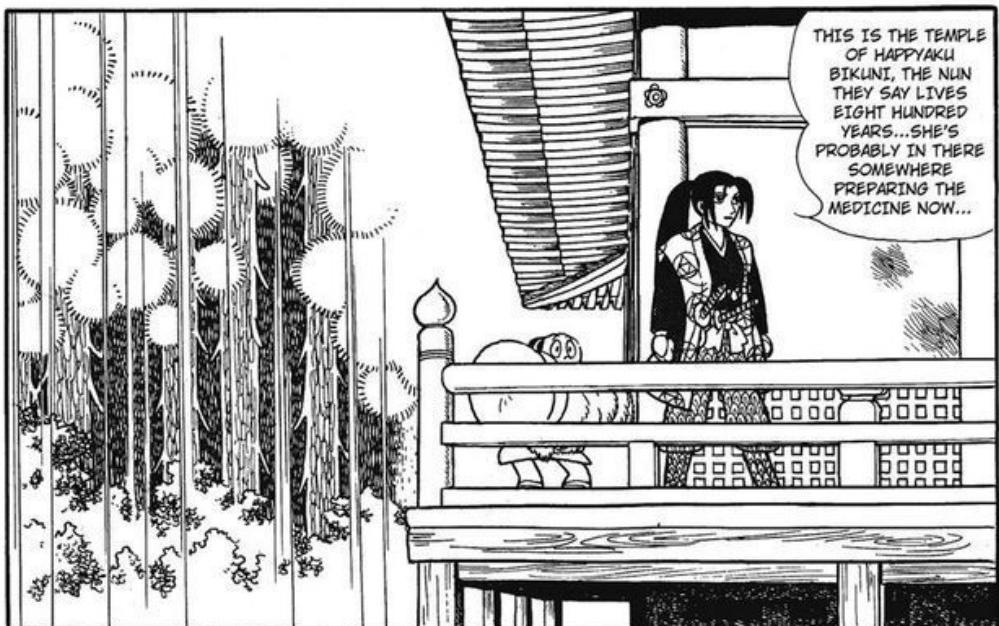




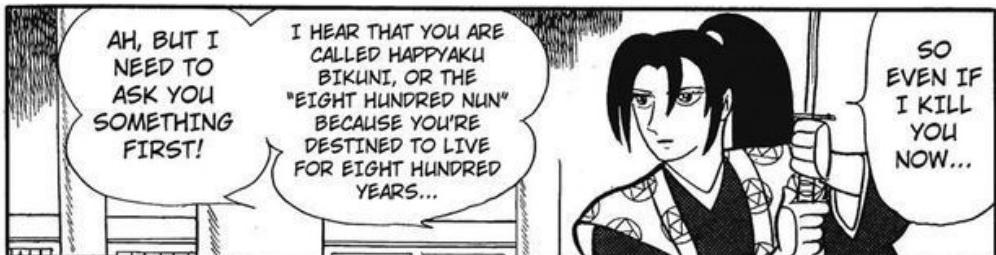
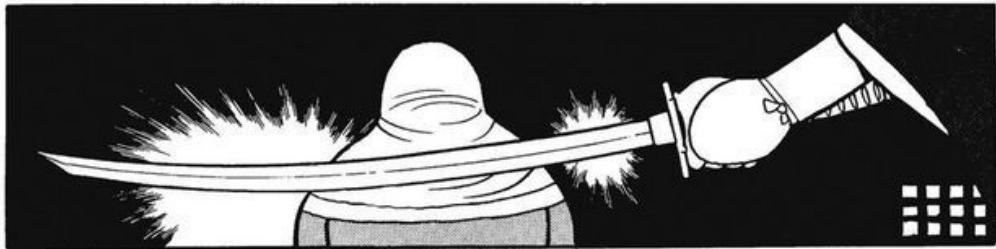




SIGN: HOURAIJI TEMPLE

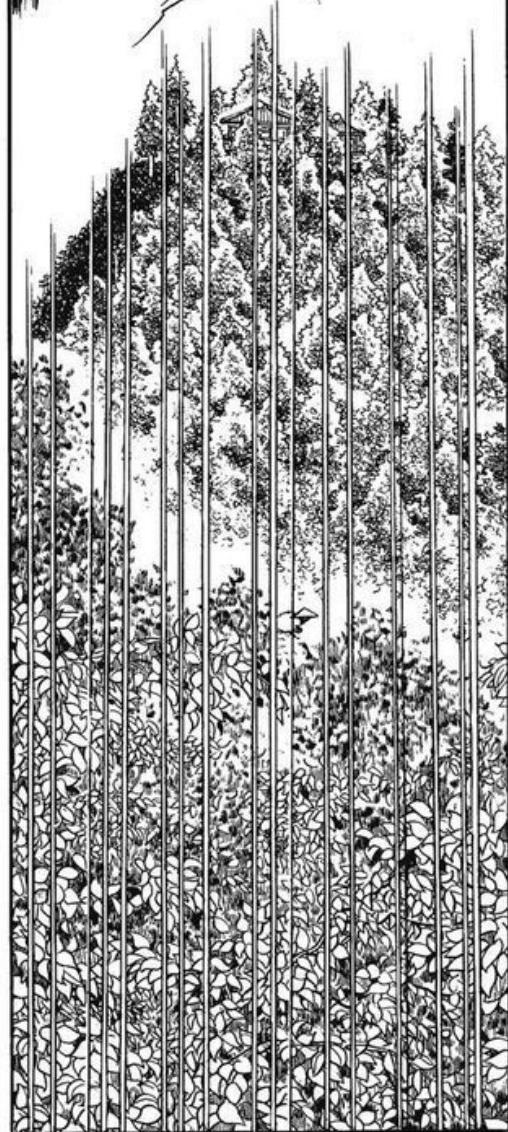












KAHEI LATER APPRENTICED HIMSELF TO TOSA MITSUNOBU, AND TOOK THE NAME OF TOSA MITSUYOSHI. TOSA MITSUNOBU'S ILLUSTRATED SCROLL, HYAKKI YAKO, OR "NIGHT PARADE OF 100 DEMONS," EVENTUALLY BECAME VERY FAMOUS.

IT IS SAID THAT MITSUYOSHI, OR KAHEI, SHOWED HIS DRAWINGS OF DEMONS TO HIS TEACHER...

...AND THAT THESE DRAWINGS THEN HELPED TOSA MITSUNOBU CONCEIVE OF HIS FAMOUS PAINTINGS.

